

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Winter hardy in-ground in zones 7 to 9. In zones 3 to 6, we recommend planting in a container so you can move the plant to a protected area before the first frost.
PLANT TYPE	Tropical.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 8 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 24-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	8 to 10 feet tall with a similar spread.
BLOOM TIME	Spring.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	3 years.
FACTS OF NOTE	Edible fruit. Self-pollinating. Fruit begins ripening in November.

SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.nifa.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.



Thank you for your order.

Your satisfaction is of primary concern to us. Please use the following resources for questions regarding your order:

- www.CottageFarmsDirect.com
- [CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting Guides](http://CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting%20Guides)
- CottageFarmsDirect.com/FAQ
- Help@CottageFarmsDirect.com
- facebook.com/CottageFarms
- [@CottageFarms](https://twitter.com/CottageFarms)
- [888-593-3644](tel:888-593-3644)
- [9960 Padgett Switch Rd.
Irvington, Alabama 36544](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9960+Padgett+Switch+Rd,+Irvington,+Alabama+36544)

Cottage Farms' Guarantee

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. Cottage Farms warrants its perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, Cottage Farms will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following shipping season.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
1-800-222-1222**

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*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

OUT OF THE BOX

OLIVE

Your plant has been shipped to you in a pot. Please remove the plant from the packaging right away and plant it as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant right away, follow these important steps:

1. Roll the plastic down around the plant and place it in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plant well watered.

Note: Some leaves may appear wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is nothing to worry about. Water the plant and let it recover for a few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

In zones 3-6, we strongly recommend planting in a container in order to properly protect the plant from winter damage.

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the pot.
2. After watering, remove the pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and squeezing the sides of the pot with the other.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

4. Dig a hole twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Partially backfill the hole with soil and place the plant into the hole. The top of the root ball should be level with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.
5. Water thoroughly.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

MULCHING

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

FEEDING

Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer such as **Cottage Farms' Carefree Bud-N-Flower Booster (SKU #M7582)**. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can prepare for winter. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in spring.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

HARVESTING

Olives darken from green to deep purple as they ripen. Olives can be harvested once the green fruits release a creamy white juice when squeezed or left on the plant to ripen to deep purple. Flavor is determined by the ripeness of the olives with the fruits becoming less bitter as they mature. Hand-pick the olives at the desired point of ripeness. The flavor and quality of the fruit deteriorates quickly after harvesting, so use them as quickly as possible to prevent spoilage. Fresh olives should be cured to preserve them and remove any unpleasant bitter flavor. Fresh olives may also be used for making olive oil. Do not consume any other part of the plant.

PRUNING

Remove dead, damaged or unsightly branches at any time. In early spring, thin inner branches and any branches that have become overlapped to allow for air circulation and light penetration in the center of the plant. Remove any branches that have become unproductive to allow them to be replaced by new wood.

To ensure your plant keeps its form, remove any growth that appears below the main branches and any growth coming up from the root system.

WINTERIZING

In warmer zones (7-9), olives may be left in the ground during winter. If freezing weather is expected, protect the roots by mounding a 6-8 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material around the base of the plant. Potted olives should be moved into a protected area on exceptionally cold nights.

In colder zones (3-6), olives should be grown in containers and moved to a protected area before the first frost. Select a room that is cool, dark and does not freeze.

Watering should be reduced significantly while the plant is indoors. Do not overwater or allow your plant to sit in water.

In spring after the threat of freezing weather has passed, remove mulch from in-ground plantings and move containerized plants back outdoors for the summer.