



WILD OLIVE

(*Olea Europaea* L.)



- ✓ The Wild Olive tree is an evergreen tree.
- ✓ It grows between 2m and 10m tall.
- ✓ Olive tree trunks grow twisted.
- ✓ The wood is strong and doesn't spoil easily.
- ✓ The tree's leaves feel leathery, are dark green in colour on the top side, and silvery grey beneath.

Wild olive trees produce small white flowers during the summer months, and small black olives during winter.

These small black olives are too bitter for us to eat but they are the favourite food of wintering birds, such as blackcaps.



The Wild Olive Landscape grows and flowers best in full sunshine or with a little shade. It doesn't need a lot of water to survive and doesn't like to grow in very wet soil.

This tree is very common and widespread throughout the Rock.

The Wild Olive is found across the Mediterranean, Portugal and North Africa.

This tree is the ancestor of the cultivated olive tree from which we get our olive oil.



The main plants of the Alameda Gardens from the earliest days were the Stone Pine *Pinus Pinea*, the wild Olive *Olea Europaea*, and the Dragon Tree *Dracaena Draco*. Some of these trees, which still survive, pre-date the opening of the garden and therefore are at least 200 years.