OLIVE

Olea europaea

FAMILY: Oleaceae

GENUS: Olea

SPECIES: europaea

COMMON NAME: Olive

POLLEN GRAINS: 22 microns in diameter with slightly flattened sides between the furrows. Exine rather coarsely reticulate. Broad germinal furrows three (occasionally four) without germ pores.

POLLINATING PERIOD: April and May

DISTRIBUTION: California from the upper Sacramento Valley to Mexico; lowland desert areas of southern Nevada, Arizona, and occasionally in New Mexico. Also occasionally in Florida.

ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE: **Important where trees are numerous.**

The Olive is native to the eastern Mediterranean region where it has been cultivated from earliest times. It is a small, evergreen tree becoming 25-30 feet tall. The leaves are opposite, average 2 inches long and ½ inch wide, sharp-tipped, tapering at both ends, dark green above and silvery scurfy beneath.

The Olive is considered to be primarily insect pollinated. However, the myriad small white blossoms produce an abundance of pollen much of which becomes windborne. Because of the pollen production, it can be of primary importance particularly because of its popularity as an ornamental.



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(Olive)