

Specialty Crops Production Workshop

Olives and Olive Oil

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History of Olives and Olive Oil

First uses



History of Olives and Olive Oil

Spread of Olives



History of Olives and Olive Oil California

Beginnings and industry
Lull
Renaissance



Growing olives in California

OleaCulture

Production

Sales and marketing

Growing olives in California

Olea Culture

Site

Variety

Spacing

Irrigation

Harvesting

Growing olives in California

Olea Culture

Site

All Sites seem to work well in Southern California

Elevation seems to be the limiting factor



Growing olives in California

OleaCulture

Variety

- Endless varieties
- More studies need to be done
- All varieties seem to fare well here

Growing olives in California

OleaCulture

Spacing

- Wide
- Medium / High
- High / Super High

Growing olives in California

Olea Culture

Spacing

- Wide 20 ft x 20 ft or wider
- Also known as traditional
- Approx 100 trees or less per acre



Growing olives in California

OleaCulture

Spacing

- Medium / High
- Less than 20 x 20
- Approx 100 trees per Acre or more



Growing olives in California

Olea Culture

Spacing

- High / Super High
- Grown like hedges for mechanical

Harvesting

- 500 trees per acre and more



Growing olives in California

Olea Culture

Irrigation

- Drip
- Micro
- Flood (really)
- Dry



Growing olives in California

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Harvesting



Growing Olives in California

Positives

Drought resistant

No significant pests

Growing established market place

People know the product

The beauty of Southern California

- Sun
- Appeal of the area
- Golden opportunity

Cost Study

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

2011
SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH A
MEDIUM

DENSITY
LIVE
RCHARD AND PRODUCE
BOTTLED
LIVE OIL

[http://coststudyfiles.ucdavis.edu/uploads/cs_public/4f/b7/4fb7b757-8f92-436f-a1ae-0f0e0eb5e25f/
liveoilnc_cc_2011.pdf](http://coststudyfiles.ucdavis.edu/uploads/cs_public/4f/b7/4fb7b757-8f92-436f-a1ae-0f0e0eb5e25f/liveoilnc_cc_2011.pdf)

Cost Study

Every Choice Listed Before effects your cost
Evaluate your unique situation

Items to get

Map of olive growing in California

Google map of c15 freeway

Water usage of olive trees compared to other crops

Use olive studies

Pictures of Niland

Pictures of north 40

Old olive tree pictures

Different planting styles

List of varieties

Water Needs

Olive Trees are well suited to our climate

Most people would call this a Mediterranean climate

Our climate in Southern California makes anyone in the Mediterranean jealous

Water Needs

Site
Soil type
Spacing
Weather
Climate



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Water Needs

General

Olives need between 1 to 3 acre feet of water per year

This varies dramatically due to factors listed previously

Reference

[http://ucmanagedrought.ucdavis.edu/Agriculture/
Crop_Irrigation_Strategies/Olives/](http://ucmanagedrought.ucdavis.edu/Agriculture/Crop_Irrigation_Strategies/Olives/)

Marketing

California produces less than 2%
of Consumption in the US

Consumption of olive oil grows by
double digits every year



**May Olive Your Dreams
Come True**

Growing Olives in California

Problems

Pests

Water

Harvest

Milling or Processing

Sales