STALLERGENES GREER

OLIVE

Genus/species	*Olea europaea*
Synonyms	European Olive
Family	Oleaceae
Distribution	California, S Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Hawaii; introduced from eastern Mediterranean region
Comments	Olive is a large shrub or small evergreen tree cultivated for thousands of years in the Mediterranean Region, where it is native. It was introduced into the US, but nearly all commercial production of fruit and oil is done in California. It is also used for landscaping purposes, and in Hawaii (Maui, Hawaii and Kauai) it has become naturalized; such introductions result in additional cases of allergy. Its small, narrow dark green leaves approach 2 inches in length but less than half an inch wide, and are arranged in pairs. The tiny fragrant whitish flowers are produced at the ends of the twigs in clusters. The fruits, typically about an inch long, develop and ripen about 6-8 months after flowering.