

EST. AUSTRALIA

OLEA AUGUSTA

The Aftercare Companion

*A guide to settling your advanced olive tree into its new home,
from the first watering to its first true season of growth.*

ADVANCED OLIVE TREES · SOURCED WITH PROVENANCE · PLACED WITH CARE

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Your Tree Has Arrived

An advanced olive tree carries decades of character in its trunk. The weeks that follow planting matter more than any other stage of its life with you. This guide will take you through them.

Olive trees are famously resilient once established, but a recently transplanted specimen is, for a period, a different creature altogether. It has left behind the root network it spent years building and must now rebuild that network in unfamiliar soil. Everything in this guide is designed around one goal: giving your tree's roots the calm, consistent conditions they need to re-establish with as little stress as possible.

DAY 1

The First Deep Watering

Water thoroughly and slowly on the day of planting, allowing the water to settle the soil fully around the root ball and eliminate any air pockets. This first watering is the most important one your tree will receive. Continue until water pools briefly at the surface before draining away.

DAYS 2 TO 7

Settling In

Keep the soil consistently moist but never waterlogged during this first week. Check the top 5cm of soil daily. If it feels dry, water again; if it is still damp, wait. Avoid the temptation to over-water out of concern, as saturated roots are the single most common cause of decline in newly placed olive trees.

A NOTE ON PLACEMENT

If your tree was staked for stability during transport or planting, check the ties every few weeks to ensure they are secure but not biting into the bark as the trunk moves and settles.

THE ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD

The First Season

Most advanced olive trees take a full season, and often longer, to fully re-establish. This is the period where consistency matters more than intensity. A tree watered a little, often, and evenly will always outperform one watered heavily and irregularly.

WEEKS 1 TO 6

Watering Rhythm

Water deeply two to three times a week in the absence of rain, adjusting for heat and wind. The goal is moist, never soggy, soil around the root zone. As new shoots appear, this is a genuine sign of recovery, and a cue to begin easing the frequency of watering back.

ONGOING

Mulching

Apply a layer of organic mulch, such as bark chip or straw, around the base of the tree to retain moisture and moderate soil temperature. Keep mulch clear of the trunk itself by a hand's width to prevent moisture sitting against the bark and encouraging rot.

FROM WEEK 6 TO 8

Fertilising

Hold off on fertiliser until the tree shows clear signs of new growth, then apply a balanced, potassium-rich fertiliser in modest amounts. Feeding a stressed tree too early diverts energy away from root recovery and can do more harm than good.

THROUGHOUT

Sunlight & Shelter

Olive trees are sun-loving by nature, and your specimen will want as much direct light as its position allows. In the first few weeks, some protection from harsh afternoon sun or strong wind can ease the transition, particularly during a heatwave.

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

Yellowing or dropping leaves in the weeks after planting are usually a sign of transplant stress rather than a failing tree. Olive trees are evergreen and reluctant to lose foliage, so any leaf drop deserves attention. Check a small twig: if it is green beneath the surface, the tree is alive and recovering. Ease back on watering if leaves yellow, as this is more often a symptom of too much water than too little.

03

LOOKING AHEAD

Life After Establishment

Once your tree has settled, an olive is one of the least demanding trees you will ever own. Its Mediterranean origins make it naturally suited to the Australian climate, and from here your involvement becomes gentle maintenance rather than active care.

Watering, Long Term

- Once established, deep water only during extended dry spells
- Allow the soil to dry between waterings
- Container-grown trees will need more frequent watering than those in open ground

Feeding

- A balanced, low-nitrogen fertiliser once or twice a year is sufficient
- Apply in early spring as the growing season begins
- Avoid feeding in the months after planting or repotting

Pruning

- Little pruning is needed in the first year while the tree focuses on roots
- From the second year, remove dead, crossing, or downward-facing branches
- Prune to open the canopy to light and air, which olives favour

Pests & Disease

- Inspect occasionally for scale, aphids, or mealybug
- Treat early with a horticultural oil or soap if detected
- A healthy, well-drained tree is naturally resistant to most issues

A TREE FOR GENERATIONS

Advanced olive trees are, by their nature, already survivors. Many of the specimens we place have stood for a century or more before finding a new home in your garden. With the modest care outlined here, there is no reason it will not stand for a great many more.

We're Here Beyond Planting Day

If your tree shows signs of stress, or you simply want a second opinion on how it's settling in, reach out. We source trees for their permanence, and we'd like to see every one of them thrive.

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