

RISING GROWTH RATES OF TEXAS OLIVE OIL

PRODUCERS IS COMPARED TO THE WINE ORCHARD GROWTH OF CALIFORNIA IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES."

"TEXAS ENJOYS THE ADVANTAGES OF CHEAP LAND, LIGHT AGRICULTURAL REGULATION, **EXCELLENT GROWING** CONDITIONS IN MUCH OF THE STATE, AND, IN COMPARISON WITH CALIFORNIA, WHICH IS SUFFERING AN EXTREME

DROUGHT, EASIER ACCESS TO WATER."

"OLIVE TREES HAVE BEEN **GROWING IN TEXAS** SUCCESSFULLY FOR A CENTURY. They are a tribute to the passion OF TEXAS GROWERS. TODAY, THE OLIVE GROVES DOTTING THE SOUTH TEXAS LANDSCAPE STAND AS PROOF OF THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF A THRIVING OLIVE-OIL INDUSTRY IN THE LONE STAR STATE."

OLIVE RANCH

## TEXAS

OLIVE OIL, BY CONTRAST, IS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY: IT'S NOT ONLY OLIVE OIL THROUGH AND THROUGH, IT REGULARLY REGISTERS ACID LEVELS—A KEY INDICATOR OF QUALITY—THAT ARE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN THE EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL."

> "Today, olive oil is being produced in South, CENTRAL AND EAST TEXAS, AND EXPERIMENTATION CONTINUES INTO FINDING APPROPRIATE GROWING REGIONS WITHIN THE STATE."

> > Lone Star Olive Ranch

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY OLIVE CO. THE BELLA VISTA

LIVE FARMS

SANDY OAKS OLIVE ORCHARD

## Olive Tree Facts

- The olive has been cultivated, revered, and referenced throughout the recorded history of man, from the Biblical story of Noah's Ark to the history of the Roman Empire, and beyond.
- It takes anywhere from 75 to 125 pounds of olives to produce one gallon of oil depending on the cultivar.
- From seed, it can take 10-15 years until first harvest.
- Out of all olives harvested, 90% will be turned into oil, and only 10% will be used as table olives.
- · Olive trees are very long lived, commonly surviving and maintaining productivity for more than 300 years. The Olive Tree of Vouves in Greece is estimated to be over 3,000 years old and still
- Olives are rich source of oils, minerals and vitamins A, E, K and B.

## **Growing Conditions**

- Climate: Temperature controls growth, reproduction, and survival of the olive. Unlike the fruit trees that we are familiar with, such as the peach, the olive does not set fruiting buds in the fall. Instead, the olive will only set flower buds after being exposed to cool night (35-50 F) and mildly warm day temperatures.
- Botany: The olive (Olea europaea L.) is a subtropical evergreen tree or shrub with opposite leaves.
- Soil: Olive trees have fairly shallow root systems so they do not need a deep soil, but the soils must be welldrained.
- Cultivation: The olive is drought tolerant, but grows best when it has sufficient water.

## References:

http://www.texasmonthly.com/food/the-other-oil-boom/ http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut/files/2010/10/olives.pdf http://www.softschools.com/facts/plants/olive\_facts/539/

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