Growing Olives in Florida

Today on Gardening in a Minute: growing olives in Florida.

Think of olive trees and you may think of the Mediterranean, but did you know that you can grow olive trees in Florida?

Their beautiful silvery foliage can complement any landscape, and the olives can be cured and eaten, or pressed for oil.

Several other Florida plants are known as “olive,” so be sure to purchase a European olive tree.

Suitable cultivars include self-fertile ones like ‘Arbequina’, ‘Mission’, or ‘Manzanilla’. Planting more than one cultivar close together may increase fruit set.

Plant your olive trees in a sunny spot with well-drained soil. Once established they’ll require minimal care, but you will need to protect them if winter temperatures drop below 20 degrees.

Depending on the cultivar, you can be enjoying your own olives in just three years!

For more information about fruit trees and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.