

MARCH / APRIL 2014

"MEDITERRANEAN"



*Dreaming of a lazy day in the sun seems what most of us do this time of the year...Imagine growing these plants with a "Mediterranean" flavour in your own backyard or community garden! It is possible with these hardy varieties of **Kiwi, Fig, Olive and Orange**.*

Actinidia arguta 'Weiki' This hardy kiwi is a vigorous, climbing vine bearing small, fragrant flowers in late spring. Needs male plant to pollinate and 150 days without frost to bear fruit, usually in 3rd or 4th year after planting. Mini-kiwi's are smooth, walnut-sized, green with reddish-brown flush. Good for eating with fruit being very high in vitamin C. The vine is ornamentally attractive and can be left to grow unrestrained; occasional removal of tangled shoots recommended to promote fruit production. Best planted in a protected (from wind), sunny location. At Specimen Trees we grow kiwis as a male/female combo, no need to purchase 2 plants! Zone 5 - 2-3m H – fast grower.



Figs were one of the first fruits to be "domesticated" (Fossilized evidence found in Jordan dates back to 9000BC!!)

Ficus carica 'Chicago' is a hardy, self-fertile, edible fig selection, very suitable for container growing. Should be grown in a protected/sheltered sunny location. Fig leaves (pictured on the left) are large (to 20cm). Fruit sets early in the season (pictured on the right) and ripens late fall to a purplish-brown with pink flesh.



Tree can dieback (usually tops and 1st year growth) under freezing weather conditions but will re-sprout (unique) from the ground in the spring! Zone 5 – 3m H/W – fast grower.



Olea europaea 'Picholin du Gard' Common Olive is native to the Mediterranean, and should be grown in sheltered, sunny, fertile, well-drained locations. It is important to protect, especially young plants, from low temperatures. Ornamental use as a broadleaf evergreen valued for its narrow gray-green, leathery leaves (silvery-green below) with fragrant creamy flowers in clusters in spring. Considered by some as self-fertile, but has been known to have better yields with a pollinator nearby. Oval, green drupes ripen to black olives. Olives are edible but require a curing process (min 2 months). Zone 7 – 6m H/W – slow grower



Poncirus trifoliata This Orange, is often more a shrub than a tree, with "deadly" 2.5-5cm spikes adorning its branches. The citrus related fruit is sour and seedy but can be used to flavour adult beverages ... Cocktail anyone? Glossy, green trifoliolate foliage emerges yellowish-green and turns yellowish in fall. White flowers in mid-spring (somewhat fragrant) are followed by rounded, yellowish fruit (4cm diameter). These hardy oranges, when left on the plant, provide ornamental interest in winter in combination with the spiky green stems! Drought tolerant. Zone 5 – 2.5-4.5m H x 1.5-4.5m W – slow grower.

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