

When leaf growth becomes to dense it should be thinned out to allow the passage of light and air. It also allows one to spot insect pests.

Since the wild olive is evergreen, pruning should preferably not be done for at least three months before transplanting as provision must be made for the removal of sufficient growth above ground to compensate for root pruning. If need be, some of the leaves can even be halved. This is also the best opportunity for wiring since the tree will be relatively sparse.

WIRING

Wiring should preferably be carried out within the first six months of new growth, but not too soon. The wood should have had a chance to harden somewhat. For younger trees it need not be left on for long – say three months – and the branch will readily retain its shape.

REPOTTING

Repotting can be carried out at virtually any time, but the best time is from August to November. There are no special rules for wild olives except that it is our experience that they do not like shallow soil. Containers should thus be slightly deeper than usual.

FEEDING

For younger trees Nitrosol can be used at half strength every fortnight from August to September. After this 3:1:5 fertilizer can be applied every fortnight but it *must* be dissolved in water.

3	Nitrogen for leaf growth	1	Phosphate for root growth	5	Potassium for flowers, fruit and hard wood
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Just before winter a potassium rich feed can be given to promote the growth of hard wood which will withstand the chill of winter.

From March to May superphosphate is applied to stimulate root growth and this is alternated with Chemicult.

No feeding is done in June and July.

Foliar feeding can be done from time to time, particularly on the undersides of leaves where most of the stomata occur. If a particular branch needs developing, foliar feed can be applied selectively.

PESTS

Woolly aphids hide under the bark and in crevices, especially under dry leaves and wiring. Apply Malathion every ten days for at least three applications.

Scale insects should preferably be removed by hand since wild olives do not care for Oleum.

Thrips, which cause the characteristic yellow spots on leaves, can be controlled with Malasol but this should be applied at least three times at intervals of ten days.

SOIL MIX

The following soil mix can be used for developing the roots of collected trees:

- 5 parts good loam
 - 4 parts coarse, washed river sand
 - 1 part well rotted compost
 - and a bit of bone meal.
- For established trees the following soil mix can be used:
- 1 part good loam
 - 1 part coarse, washed river sand
 - 1 part well rotted compost
 - and a bit of bone meal.