

OLIVE TREES

SIKITITA

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Origin and denomination

New olive variety selected for high density orchards. Obtained by researchers at Cordoba University and the Institute Andaluz de Investigación y Formación Agraria (IFAPA) within an olive breeding program that both institutions have been carrying out since 1991. It is originated from hybridization between 'Picual' (female parental) and 'Arbequina' (male parental), the two varieties more widely spread in the Spanish olive groves.

Cultivation area

It is the most important variety in Catalonia, where it occupies more than 55,000 hectares. The variety has been protected in the European Union, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, United States (with the denomination 'Chiquitita'), South Africa, Australia, Tunis, Morocco and Turkey.

Agronomic and commercial consideration

Its main characteristics are: very low vigour, compact canopy and weeping shape that makes its canopy volume about 60-70% referred to Arbequina's. These characteristics make this variety very adequate to be used in plantations in hedge, where number of trees reach 2000 olive trees/ha. In the case of 'Sikitita', due to its smallest vigour, planting spaces of 3,5 x 1,25 m. can be used.

It has an early entry in production and high productivity, good oil yield content and extractability. Its oil expresses very good organoleptic characteristics and is characterized by being fruity and sweet with bitterness and piquant quite balanced.

Resistance, tolerance and susceptibility

Olive knot In study

Leaf Spot Moderately tolerant

Verticillium In study

Other Tolerant to cold

Morphological characteristics

Tree

Low vigour. Weeping shape. Dense canopy.

Leaf

Elliptical-lanceolate shape, short and narrow.

Fruit

Ovoidal and symmetrical shape, without tip, middle weight, black color when in full ripening.

Pit

Elliptical and symmetrical shape, with tip.