

## **MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE**

ALICANTE has a Mediterranean climate. That is, a dry semi-arid summer climate, which usually means little rainfall during the months of spring and summer and most of the rain falling during winter months. So the weather that you can expect in Alicante will be long hot and dry summers and mild winters with some rainfall.

The average annual temperature range is 14°C and the mean annual temperature is 20°C.

With regard to the rainfall in Alicante, it varies according to the month of the year. The wettest month is October and the driest one is July. Moreover, the total annual rainfall is 390mm.

Bearing in mind the weather seasons in Alicante, there are 6 months of warm, dry weather from the beginning of May till the end of September. July and August are the hottest and the driest ones. On the contrary, the wettest month is October.





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## **Why are summers hot and dry?**

Summers are hot because the sun rises high into the sky. Although it does not shine from directly overhead as it does nearer the Equator, it does rise higher than in places to the north, like Belgium.

The prevailing wind blows from the land. As the land is hot at this time of year then the wind blowing from it will bring hot weather.

As the land is also dry then the wind blowing over it cannot pick up much moisture. This means that most places have very little rain and several months of drought. Apart from an occasional thunderstorm most days are cloudless and sunny.



### **Why are winters warm and wet?**

Although the sun is lower in the sky in winter it is still high enough to give warm days. The nearby sea, which was warmed during the summer, only loses its heat slowly in winter. This keeps places near to the coast warm. Frost and snow are unusual near sea-level. The prevailing wind blows from the opposite direction to that of summer. As it now comes from the sea it brings air that is warm and moist. As the air rises over the many coastal mountains it gives large amounts of relief rainfall and, at higher altitudes, snow. However, wet days are usually separated by two or three days which are warm and sunny.



## **What is drought?**

Drought is a long period of low rainfall which affects growing or living conditions.

Not only high temperatures, but also dry winters can cause droughts. They can be a short but extreme season and local or widespread in the nature too.

**Plans for controlling water resources and for adapting to the climate change have already started in Spain.**

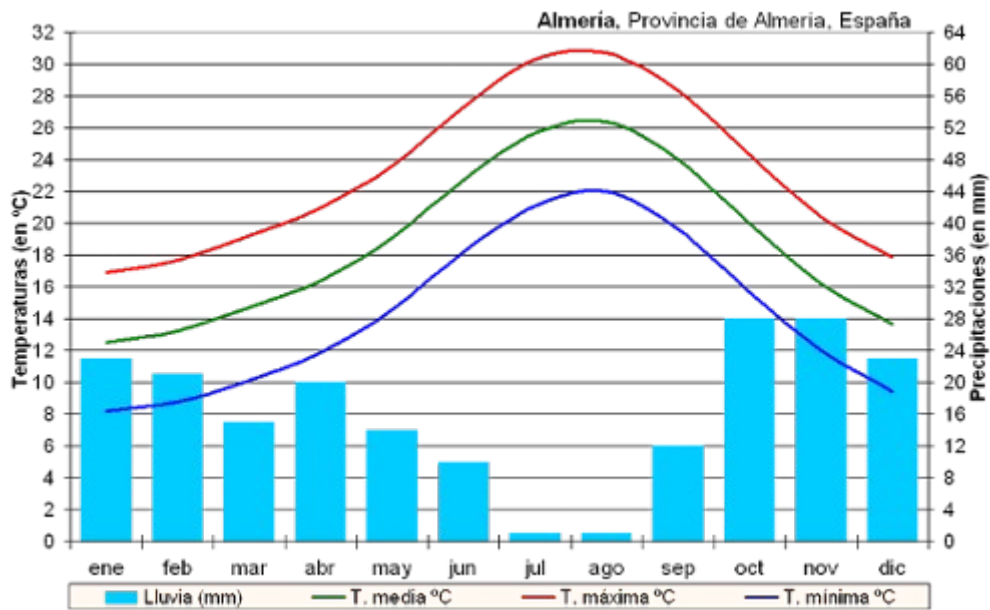
With the National Water Plan people are encouraged to reduce the consumption of water and at the same time the effect of these reductions are taken into account.

\*You can see how an extreme drought has affected all the field.



## The driest city of the Mediterranean climate in Spain

It represents the lowest rainfalls of the summer months, and the lack of raining throughout the year as well.





## **TYPICAL PLANTS AND TREES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA**

### **A. Two types of Vegetation:**

#### **MAQUIS:**

It is a type of very dense vegetation. It grows on a soil rich in silica. It has comprised trees like Green Oak, Cork Oak and Prickly Shurbs.



**GARRIGUE:**

It is a type of vegetation. It grows on a soil rich in calcium, after deforestation of the Mediterranean forest. It doesn't cover the whole ground surface and it consists of small shrubs and aromatic plants.



## **B. Eight Plants or Trees:**

**1.Lichen:** It grows on the trunks of trees, rock surfaces and walls.



**2.Rosemary:** It is an aromatic plant. It can grow to a height of 1.5 metres.



**3.Green or Holm Oak:** It doesn't lose their leaves and its fruit is the acorn.



**4.Thyme:** It is a small plant, found in Garrigue vegetation. It can be used in cooking. Their flowers can be white or violet



**5.Lavender:** It has violet flowers, and its scent is used by making perfume or washing products.



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**6.Pine:** It is a conifer. It has been used for construction and its trunk is vertical except by the coastal winds.



**7.Chestnut:** It has a height of 35 metres. And its fruit, the chestnut, is protected by many spines.



## 8.The Olive Tree:

The Olive Tree is grown in full hot sun and it also resists strong winds. It grows well in salty conditions near the coast too. Olives suit the calcareous soils of limestone rocks and with their long root systems, they can reach underground sources easily.

The Mediterranean climate, has a long, hot growing season which helps to ripen the fruit properly. It also has no late spring frosts, so the flowers can survive successfully. Then, the fruit can be harvested in autumn and processed lately.

The Olive Tree can live for 500 years. They are tough, easily growing back even when they are chopped to the ground.





## **Harvesting Method**

**Bastinado technique** consists in beating the tree with a long stick to make the olives fall. This is the way to make a huge quantity of olives fall. Then, with black nylon nets spread underground each tree, the falling fruit is caught.



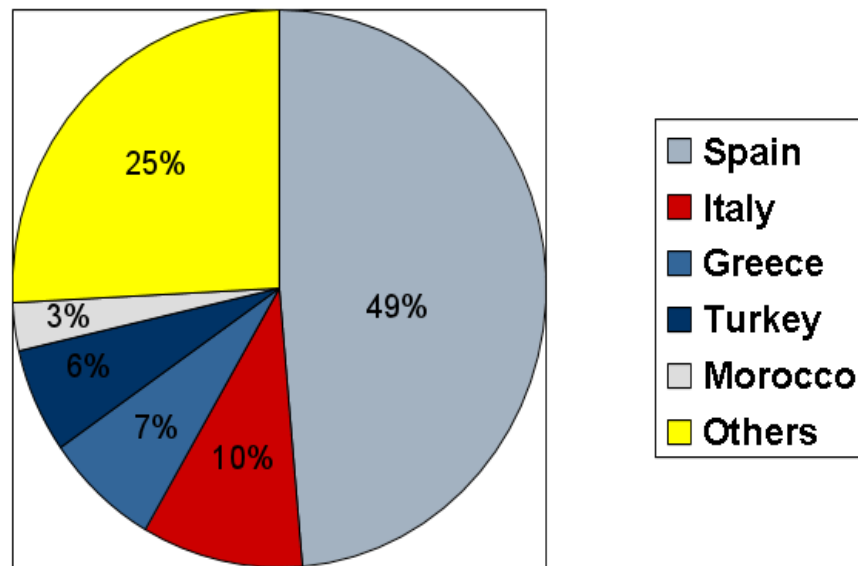
**Commercial Products processed with Olives:**

Olive oil, margarine, a whole range of olives treated in various ways, pickling , body lotions...



Countries which export olive oil , Olive Production (2013-2014)

## COUNTRIES MOST PRODUCERS OF OLIVE OIL



## **Mediterranean Crops**

### **1.Orchard Farming**



### **2.Viticulture , Grape Cultivation , Fruits**





### **3.Cereal and Vegetable Cultivation**





#### **4. Animal Husbandry**



## **Typical Mediterranean Food**

**1.Rice**

**2.Goat Cheese: Pastoral Mechanised**

**3.Apricot : Orchard Intensive**



#### 4. Wine: Seasonal , fertile soil





## 5. Tomato: Irrigation Method, Labour intensive

Intensive agriculture which is carried out in fields covered with plastic “greenhouses”. The arid coastal plain of Almeria, Mediterranean climate, seems to be a farming success, it supplies Northern Europe with winter fruit and vegetables and earns € 500 million each year.



## 6.Olives



## 7.Dates





## 8.Figs



## 9. Grapes



## 10. Oranges



## 11. Lemons



## 12. Cereals



## Typical Meals in the Mediterranean Climate

### Paella



## Fideua



## Horchata



## Lemonade

