

# Olive Green

by Anne Christine Tooley  
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*“From a bud, only a promise,  
Then a gentle opening: Rich blooming,  
Bursting fragrance,  
The fulfillment of the  
center.”*

Deng Ming-Dao

When asked to write about a color, there was only one choice for this time of year: **Olive Green**. How could I not speak about it when glorious springtime is everywhere with **olive green** bursting from the tips of every shrub and tree, and rising as new growth from the warming of the Earth? The Earth is doing its annual “waking up from a long winter nap”, and **olive** represents this **life force energy springing forth**, reminding us of **birth** and **growth** and the **promise of new life fulfilled**.

To understand the significance of **olive** and this sudden burst of energy and movement, we must look at the time leading up to the **olive** of springtime. Winter is a time of integration of the old and planting the seeds for the future. It is a time of deep inwardness, rest, pause, contemplation, reassessment, pondering, gestating, and waiting. This is when we **sow creative ideas allowing them to develop** and **grow at their own pace** knowing they will **sprout at just the right moment**.

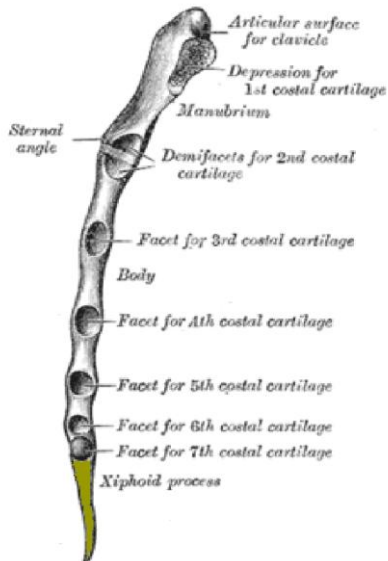


In the never ending circle of the **Yin/Yang** which represents the circle of life, **olive** is **coming out of the darkness into the light, from rest to the beginning of movement** (see arrow on diagram). This point on the never ending circle is just after the stillpoint when there is no movement, no breath, somewhere between light and dark where there is only **neutrality**. Movement begins slowly at the point of **olive green** and then reaches its zenith at the Summer Solstice.

In Tarot the Wheel of Fortune is the number 10. **Olive** is the **beginning of the wheel**. It is the energy of the **once quiet seeds** planted last fall **emerging from the darkness into the light**. All of the condensed energy that silently matured over winter is now bursting up and out into the warmth of the light of the Sun, ready to grow and ripen. It is when the **unconscious is becoming conscious**. To take the numerology a step further, 10 reduces to 1 which is the **beginning of a new cycle**.

Astrologically, spring begins on or about March 21 in the sign of **Aries**. Aries is the **beginning of the astrological wheel** following the end of the wheel, Pisces. After the quiet, meditative, unconscious, mysticism of Pisces, Aries suddenly jumps in with its fiery energy and takes action. Aries is ruled by the planet Mars.

In the chakra system, **olive** is located where the **solar plexus** and **heart chakras** meet. This is a **major transition point in the ascending and descending of energy in the chakra system**. **Olive** is the **color bridge between the lower and the upper chakras**. *“Olive is made up of yellow and green; green is the **heart** and yellow is the **solar plexus** and the combination of the two **combines love and power**.”*



Physically **olive** is located at the **xiphoid process**, which is a piece of cartilage that is an extension of the sternum (colored in **olive** in the diagram). Not only does **olive** represent the coming together of the heart and solar plexus chakras, the **“xiphoid process physically connects the sternum (heart chakra) with the cartilage of the solar plexus.”** Wikipedia.com

*“The word “xiphoid” is derived from the Greek word “xiphos” meaning **straight sword**.”* Wikipedia.com. At this time of year, we **reawaken** and begin to **cut and clear away the old making way for the new**. There’s very much a feeling of **Archangel Michael** in the **olive**.

In Chinese Medicine, the element of Wood is **olive green**. It is the **transition from winter to spring** as well as the **season of spring**. The organs of Wood are the **Liver & Gallbladder**. **Spring cleaning** is about cleansing and letting go both **materially** and **physically**. **Clear out all that is no longer necessary** and **detoxify your body**. Wood also relates to the **eyes**, and with our **tears**, we cleanse as we **release grief and pain**.

So **olive** is in Chinese Medicine all about **cleansing** and **clearing the old to make way for the new**.

KEYWORDS for **olive green** in the cycles of life are: New beginnings. Fresh start. Dawn. Sunrise. Spring. New Moon. New Year’s Day, Near-death experience. Transformation. Transmutation. Birth. Rebirth. Resurrection.

**Olive** as the **hope for the future**, **rebirth** and the **power of feminine intuition**. **Olive** reminds us of the assured “money-back guarantee” that rebirth will follow after death, that light returns after the darkness, that creative ideas will come to fruition. When **olive** appears in your color choices, know that **you have done the work of releasing the old** and **you are waking up to a new time in your life, a new beginning, a rebirth of a new you**. This is a time of **heightened intuition, movement and change**. Rejoice, celebrate and watch what beautiful events unfold for you!

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