

Olive Oil Production

Explanation

The olive crop was a mainstay of Palestinian economy in the days of Jesus. Olive trees were carefully cultivated and took decades to grow. The valuable olive was used for many purposes. The purest oil of the first pressing was especially prized and was used for anointing in the religious ceremonies of Jews, Greeks, and Romans. After separating out the press residue, which was used for fuel, the remaining fluid was re-pressed and separated into oil and *amurca*. The oil served as a basis for medicines and cosmetics, as well as the main source of lamp and cooking oils.

References

- John Gee and Daniel C. Peterson, "Graft and Corruption: On Olives and Olive Culture in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean," in *The Allegory of the Olive Tree*, ed. Stephen D. Ricks and John W. Welch (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1994), 194–95.
- Truman G. Madsen, "The Olive Press: A Symbol of Christ," in *The Allegory of the Olive Tree*, ed. Stephen D. Ricks and John W. Welch (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1994), 1–10.
- Wilford M. Hess, "Recent Notes about Olives in Antiquity," *BYU Studies* 39/4 (2000): 115–26.

Olive Oil Production

