

# Proposal for emoji: OLIVE

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**Date:** March 31st, 2019

**Emoji Name:** OLIVE

**Sort Order:** in the “food-vegetable” category, after MUSHROOM and before PEANUTS

**Reference Emoji:** MELON

**Keywords:** olive, food



*Credit: Apee Messer. Free for use in conjunction with this proposal  
Black and white images available once color images are finalized*

## Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of OLIVE to the Unicode Emoji character library. Olive is a species of a small tree originally found across the Mediterranean and now cultivated in similar climates in other continents. It produces a small fruit that is very popular all over the world, where it is consumed both alone, as an ingredient in myriads of recipes, and extracted as an oil.

# Introduction

With a history of several thousand years of human consumption and use, [Olive](#)<sup>1</sup> is native to the mediterranean, and has long been a common staple worldwide. It was known to the Phoenicians and has been cultivated and sold in Crete since at least 5000 years. Olive has long had strong symbolic connotations, from the Olive Branch as a symbol for peace, to olive oil and olive itself being used for medicine in roman times.



Olive oil was used to anoint kings and athletes in ancient Greece.

Olive and Olive Trees are referenced multiple times in the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Quran.

The olive is one of the "trinity" or "triad" of basic ingredients in Mediterranean cuisine, the other two being wheat for bread, pasta, and couscous, and the grape for wine.

Olive is known worldwide by its unique shape and flavor.

Olives are one of the most extensively cultivated fruit crops in the world. In 2011,

about 9.6 million hectares were planted with olive trees, which is more than twice the amount of land devoted to apples, bananas, or mangoes. There are restaurants, competitions and festivals, recipes and books dedicated to olives.

“Pass then through this tiny span of time in accordance with Nature, and come to thy journey's end with a good grace, just as an olive falls when it is fully ripe, praising the earth that bare it and grateful to the tree that gave it growth”  
— Marcus Aurelius.



Photo Credits: <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olive>

<sup>2</sup> Public Domain on Wikipedia

<sup>3</sup> Photo by Josef Grunig [CC BY-SA 2.0] on Flickr

<sup>4</sup> Photo by Renee Comet/National Cancer Institute [Public Domain] on Wikipedia

# **Selection Factors Inclusion**

## **Compatibility**

While there have been many requests for an OLIVE emoji, most popular messaging services have not included a OLIVE emoji yet. This proposal seeks to rectify that.

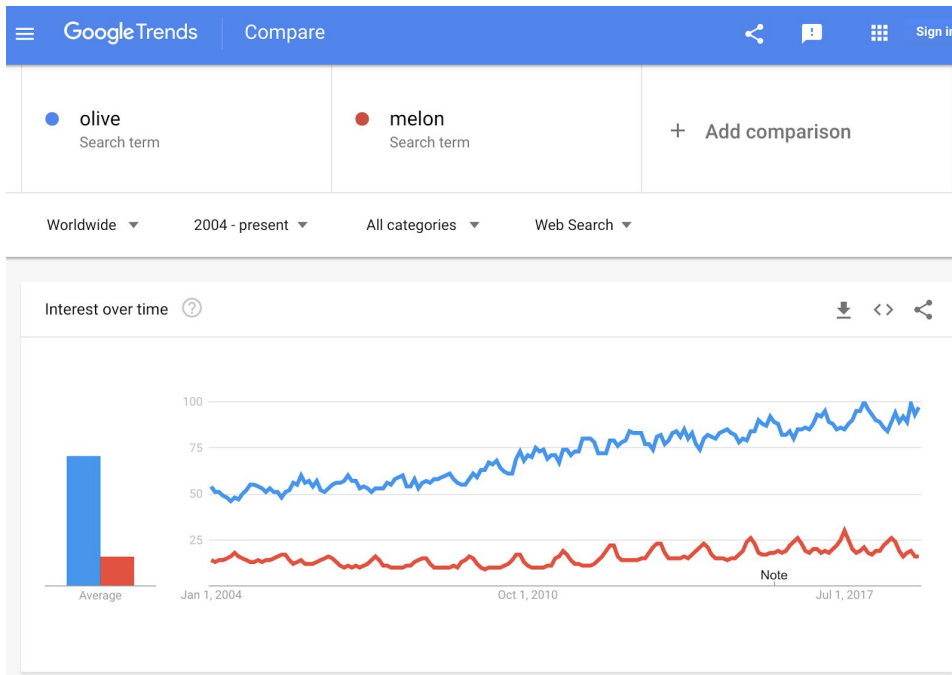
## **Expected Usage Level**

### **Frequency**

Since we propose the OLIVE emoji to be included in the “food” category, the corresponding reference emoji would be MELON. In all but one dataset, as you will see below, “olives” are used or searched much more frequently than “melons”. All screenshots were taken on February 28th 2019.

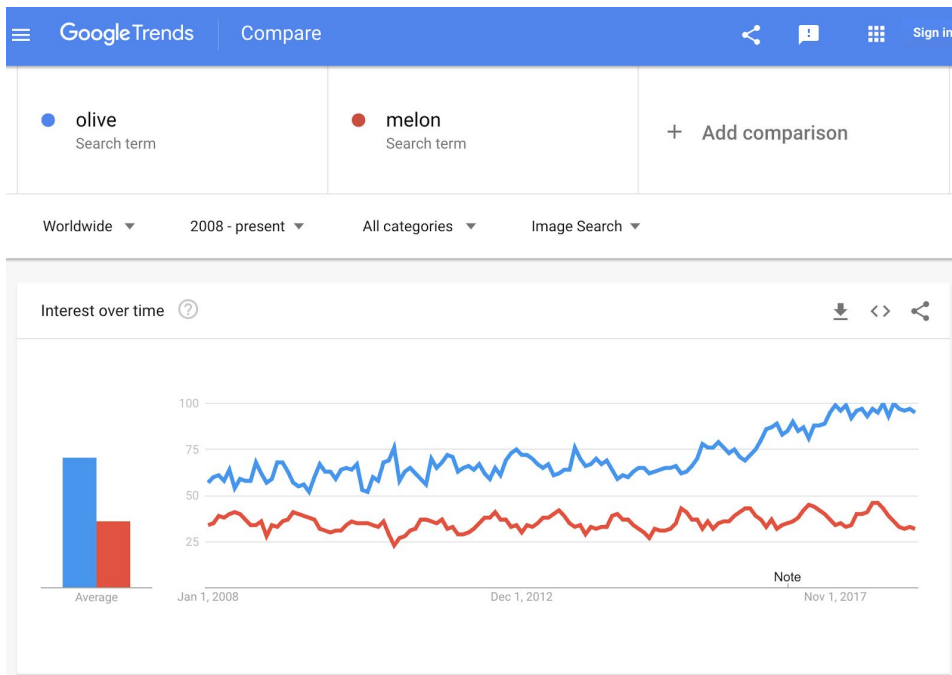
Google Trends: Web Search

Olives are searched 5 to 6 times more frequently on Google than melons.



## Google Trends: Image Search

People search for images of OLIVE about 3 times more frequently than MELON.



## NGram Viewer

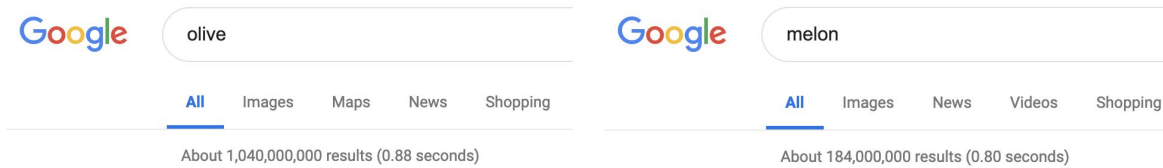
Olives are also mentioned much more frequently than melons in literature.

### Google Books Ngram Viewer

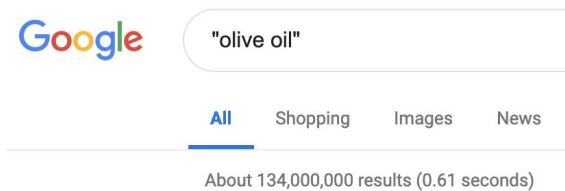


## Google Search

There are more than 5 times more results for OLIVE than for MELON.

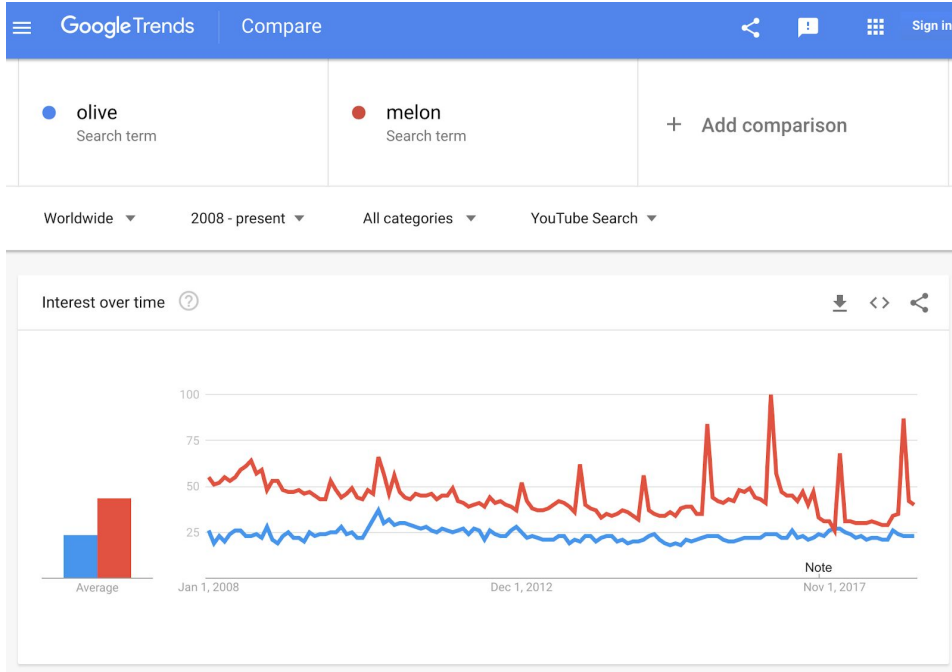


And it's not all about "Olive Oil".

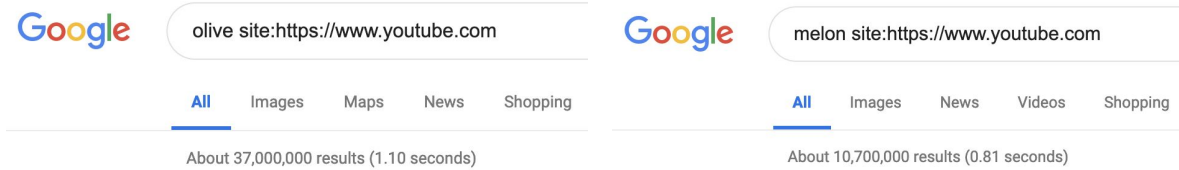


## YouTube Search

Unlike image searches, MELON is slightly more popular than OLIVE among YouTube users.




But there are almost 4 times more videos about olives than melons.




Bing Search

Bing shows more than twice the number of search results for OLIVE than MELON.



**All** Images Videos Maps

11-24 Of 62,200,000 Results Any time ▾




**All** Images Videos Maps

11-24 Of 26,700,000 Results Any time ▾

### Instagram Search


Hashtags on Instagram also reflect a larger usage of OLIVE over MELON.


 | *Instagram*



**#olive**  
2,153,360 posts

[Follow](#)

 | *Instagram*

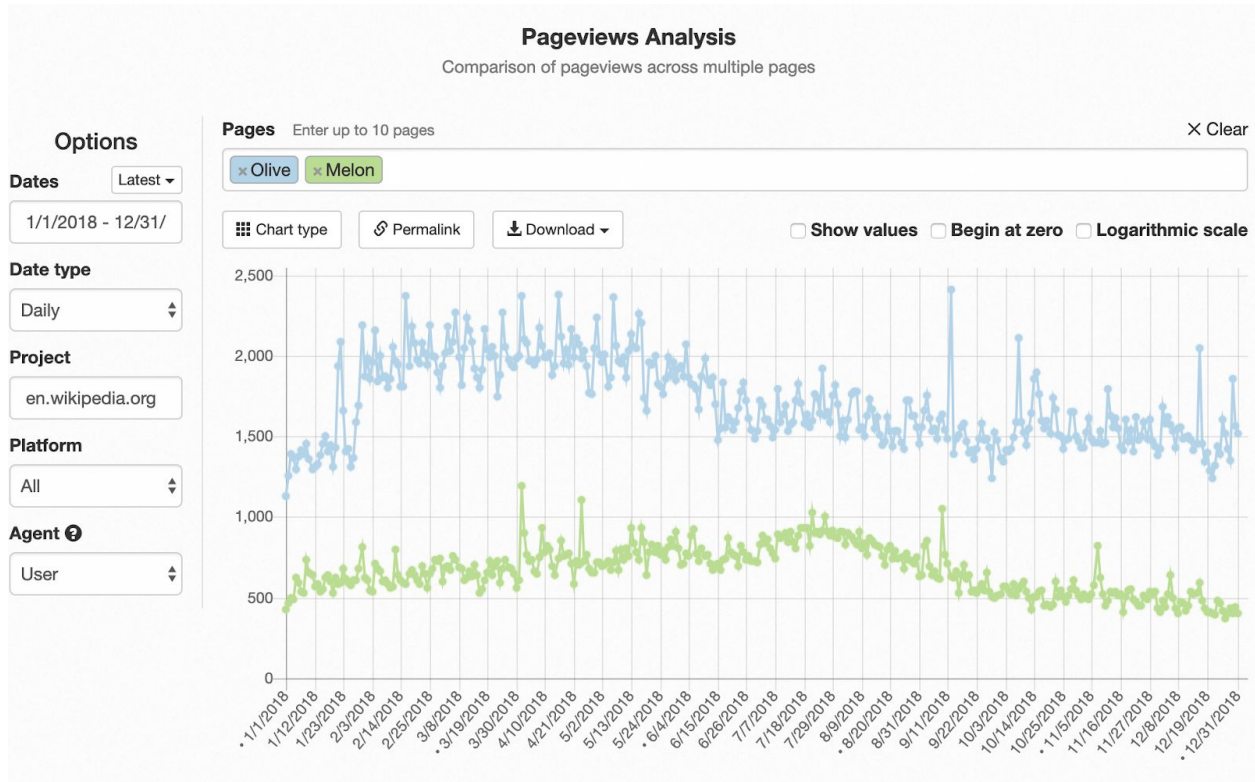


**#melon**  
1,727,289 posts

[Follow](#)

## Wikipedia Search

Users of Wikipedia visit the page for “olive” much more frequently than “melon”.



## Multiple Usages

The OLIVE emoji would be used heavily by food-eaters, chefs, and lovers of mediterranean food. It could be used in combination with other emoji to express a variety of prepared dishes or drinks.

## Use in Sequences

OLIVE + BRANCH: “Peace”

OLIVE + TREE: “Olive tree”

OLIVE + DROPLET: “Olive oil”

OLIVE + COCKTAIL GLASS: “Martini”

OLIVE + BAGUETTE: “Olive bread”





## Image Distinctiveness

The color used on this emoji is actually called “olive green”, and its shape is widely recognizable.

We believe that by using a “pitted and stuffed with pimento” version we make it even more distinguishable and reduce the chances of confusion with other fruits or similarly shaped objects.

## Completeness

Olive represents a major category of culinary and cultural experience which is not represented in the current emoji list.

Also note that for Mediterranean culture, OLIVE is in the holy trinity with WHEAT  and GRAPE , both of which already exist in the emoji set.

## Frequently Requested

Twitter is full of people with various levels of outrage at the lack of olive emoji, and no shortage of tweets with the hashtag #oliveemoji.

<https://twitter.com/canosergi/status/1094345310422421505>



**Sergi Cano Brinques**  
@canosergi

Suivre

Em sembla un despropòsit que d'entre 230 nous emojis que s'estrenaran aquest any no n'hi hagi cap d'olives... #OliveEmoji #WeWantOliveEmoji #OliveEmoji2019



**230 New Emojis in Final List for 2019**

The final emoji list for 2019 has now been approved by the Unicode Consortium and includes a total of 230 new emojis [https://emojipedia.org/emoji-12.0/] coming to maj...  
blog.emojipedia.org

13:20 - 9 fevr. 2019

<https://twitter.com/theblackpantha/status/1024754777840861189>



**BLACK PANTHER**  
@theblackpantha

Suivre

@Apple @Google @Android we are in desperate need of an olive emoji. #oliveemoji

13:32 - 1 août 2018

1 J'aime



<https://twitter.com/umbrellanaut/status/759417542322561025>



**erica**  
@umbrellanaut

Suivre

"spicy" olives that are \*actually spicy\* 🙌👏🌟  
🌶️ ::oliveemoji: #barcelona

08:57 - 30 juil. 2016

<https://twitter.com/alysonshane/status/634366284667289601>



**Drew Gourdie** @drewbie\_g · 20 août 2015

Personally, I'd \*love\* to see #OlivesAreLife trending ASAP! 😊

**JC GG** @LittleLadyCook

En réponse à @drewbie\_g

@drewbie\_g haha totally, no olives emoji, how dare they! Olives are life <3

2

1



**Alyson Shane**

@alysonshane

Suivre

En réponse à @drewbie\_g

@drewbie\_g @LittleLadyCook we should petition for to make #OliveEmoji happen

07:08 - 20 août 2015

[https://twitter.com/marrsp\\_/status/605499955684376576](https://twitter.com/marrsp_/status/605499955684376576)



**.M.**

@marrsp\_

Suivre

just ate a jar of olives #oliveemoji

15:23 - 1 juin 2015

<https://twitter.com/joyangire/status/984448011156762625>



**joy**

@joyangire

Suivre

j'ai besoin d'un emoji olive

08:07 - 12 avr. 2018

[https://twitter.com/512\\_512\\_512\\_512/status/1074437097388425216](https://twitter.com/512_512_512_512/status/1074437097388425216)



**512**

@512\_512\_512\_512

Suivre

@SamsungFR pourquoi n'y a t'il pas d'emoji olive ?

14:52 - 16 déc. 2018

<https://twitter.com/bottomofthepot1/status/1100135698227589120>



**Laura Brehaut** @newedist · 25 févr.  
These are incredible! Thanks for sharing, @bottomofthepot1



1 comment, 1 retweet, 3 likes



**Naz Deravian**  
@bottomofthepot1

Suivre

En réponse à @newedist

♥️ I wish there was an olive and pomegranate emoji!

12:49 - 25 févr. 2019

[https://twitter.com/tamis\\_fitlife/status/1098346544514953222](https://twitter.com/tamis_fitlife/status/1098346544514953222)



**Pearls Olives** @PearlsOlives · 20 févr.  
#LifelsBetterWithPearls because why?



13 comments, 3 retweets, 12 likes



**Tami**  
@tamis\_fitlife

Suivre

En réponse à @PearlsOlives

Because they are so nutritious & delicious you just can't say no 🍷👏🥰🥰🥰 where's an olive emoji 😂😂😂

14:19 - 20 févr. 2019

Olive Emoji is also periodically requested on Instagram, with accounts such as "THEY DON'T HAVE AN OLIVE EMOJI" and requests spread among various hashtags #oliveemoji, #oliveemoji2k15, #oliveemoji2k16, #oliveemoji2k17, #oliveemoji2k18, #oliveemojiplease

The Wikipedia page for Olive is available in more than 110 languages, which confirms its global appeal



# Selection Factors Exclusion

## Overly Specific

The suggested image for the OLIVE emoji does represent a single variety among many, in a specific presentation, but it is easily understood as an iconic representation of this fruit. We chose green as the color for recognition, instead of black. But it could be understood to represent any color of olive.

## Open Ended

The proposed design does not open up huge categories of produce that are not already open. The OLIVE is pretty unique in global culture for its versatility and its role in Mediterranean cuisine..

## Already Representable

Given that people are using "olive emoji" as text, or using the "cocktail glass" emoji with an explanation that it is actually about olives, it seems that there is no good way of representing olive in lieu of a specific OLIVE emoji.

## Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Olive is featured in many logos, brands, and trademarks. Several types of olives enjoy Protected Geographical Status in Europe. However, the proposed emoji for OLIVE does not require a specific representation that would violate intellectual property or other laws.

## Transient

Olive has existed for thousands of years. It is the subject of countless recurring festivals. It shows no outward signs of growing weary of this attention.

## Faulty Comparison

We believe the OLIVE emoji is justified on its own merits. In particular, we are not comparing it to any existing emoji that has been grandfathered in under a weird precedent.

## Exact Images

The proposed emoji does not require an exact image representation.

## Other Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored:

N Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping:

Simple Lowercase Mapping:

Simple Titlecase Mapping:

## Author Bios

Ziad WAKIM ([ziad.wakim@gmail.com](mailto:ziad.wakim@gmail.com)) is an entrepreneur and mediterranean food enthusiast. His grandfather bootstrapped his career by selling olives and olive oil from their village in Lebanon. He's currently on a quest to taste all the variety of olives.

Sebastian DELMONT ([sd@notso.net](mailto:sd@notso.net)) is a Venezuelan software developer and entrepreneur living in New York City. He fondly remembers his uncle's small olive grove in southern France, and he loves his wife very much even if she doesn't like olives.