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SERIES



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Schefflera

Schefflera (*Brassaia actinophylla*)
Miniature Schefflera (*Schefflera arboricola*)
Tupidanthus (*Tupidanthus calyptratus*)

There are three plants commonly known as scheffleras. While they require similar growing conditions, their growth habit and appearance is somewhat different. They are handsome, fast growers, and very satisfactory interior plants when given enough light, warmth, and proper watering.

Brassaia actinophylla: This plant is the most widely known of the schefflera family. Its medium to dark green leaves are large and palmately lobed, each up to 30 inches in length. It may reach a height of 10-12 feet. Generally, *Brassaia* requires bright or direct sunlight. The cultivar 'Amate' however, tolerates slightly lower light conditions and is more resistant to insects.

Schefflera arboricola: The smallest of these plants has a compact, dense growth habit and grows up to 8 feet tall and almost as wide. Its leaves are darker than the one above and only 6 inches in length.

Tupidanthus calyptratus: This plant is similar to *Brassaia*, but not as dense. Its large leaves are thick, leathery, and dark green. It grows 10-15 feet in height.

LIGHT: Scheffleras enjoy the sun of a south or west window or the bright indirect light of an unobstructed east window.

WATER: Water thoroughly until water comes out of the drainage holes, then remove all of the excess from the saucer. In order to tell if your plant is dry enough to be watered, pinch some soil (from as deep in the pot as you can get) between your forefinger and thumb. Squeeze, then let go. If soil clings to your finger, it already has enough moisture. If not, water thoroughly. Never allow the plant to stand in water, as this causes overwatering problems and leaf drop.

FERTILIZER: Use a balanced fertilizer, as directed on the label, from March through October.

PESTS: Check your schefflera often for insects, looking for mealy bugs and spider mites. Mealy bugs are white, cottony-looking insects usually found in the axil of leaves and stems as well as on the underside of the leaves. Spider mites form minute webbing on the underside of the leaves and can be seen with a hand lens.

SPECIAL NOTES: Scheffleras drop leaves if the temperature reaches 45 degrees F or below. A minimum of 60 degrees F is best for a healthy plant.