

Schefflera (Umbrella Tree)

Close relatives of Aralias, Umbrella Tree (Schefflera actinophylla) and Dwarf Umbrella Tree (Schefflera arboricola) make lovely houseplants. Umbrella Trees can be found in green and variegated varieties.

Scheffleras can be toxic to pets or people if eaten in large quantities.

Light:

Best appearance when grown in bright indirect sun, though they will tolerate moderate light. If light levels are too low, the plants may become floppy.

Water & Fertilizer:

Water thoroughly when moderately dry, discarding any water that runs through and accumulates in the saucer or cachepot.

Scheffleras are not "hungry" plants, fertilize with half-strength solution once or twice in spring/summer.

Temperature & Humidity:

Prefers warm home temperatures, avoid cold drafts from doors, windows or air-conditioning. If possible, provide high humidity. Regular misting and/or pebble trays can help.

Repotting:

When your Schefflera outgrows its pot, repot into a new home a few inches wider.

Pests:

Mealybugs, spider mites, and scale can be pests of Scheffleras. Treat at the first sign of pests.

As with many houseplants, overwatering is a common problem. Yellow leaves that drop from the plant is a sign of overwatering.

Pruning:

If your Schefflera becomes too tall, the tallest canes can be "chopped" and new growth will sprout from the cut end. This may take some time, and requires a bright location to encourage sprouting. Cut in early spring and hide the cuts by trimming to a point slightly below the leaves of the next-smaller canes.



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