

Schefflera

Cultivation manual — young plants from seed

- Highly decorative glossy foliage plant
- Easy care, formable houseplant
- Adapts well to various conditions





Schefflera actinophylla, a.k.a. Brassia, is a stunning, tropical shrub or tree with a vigorous habit. This beautiful Schefflera has a natural glossy look and long, oblong leaves. The shiny green, leathery leaves are arranged on their slender stalks like an umbrella, or like fingers on a hand.

Plant profile:

Genus:	Schefflera
Species:	actinophylla
Family:	Araliaceae
Common name:	Umbrella tree Australian Ivy Palm Octopus Tree
Life cycle:	Evergreen perennial shrub
Usage:	Houseplant
USDA Hardiness zone:	Zone 10 to 12
Plant habit:	Upright
Finished plant height:	35 to 90 cm



Schefflera actinophylla

Schefflera actinophylla is native to tropical areas of Northeast Australia, Java and New Guinea, where it grows to huge sizes in open woodlands and monsoon rainforests.

As a houseplant Schefflera is super versatile and it adapts well to various conditions. Schefflera is easy to prune to any size you want. Keep it tall and slender to offer it as a tree-like stunner to cover a corner from floor to ceiling. Or, make it short and compact, to sell it as a table top pot plant. In addition, Schefflera is a great air-purifier.

Schefflera — Young plants from seed

Pot culture:

Tray sizes (cells/tray):	Tray 112 hole 5+ Tray 66 hole 5+
Culture location:	Greenhouse
Availability:	Year round
Average young plant production time:	12 to 14 weeks
Recommended pot sizes:	
S. actinophylla:	14 to 32 cm pots
S. arboricola	7 to 17 cm pots
Plugs per pot:	1 to 2 plugs per pot
Plant density:	
7 cm pot:	120 pots per m ²
10,5 cm pot	60 pots per m ²
12 cm pot:	25 pots per m ²
14 cm pot:	16 pots per m ²
17 cm pot:	12 pots per m ²
32 cm pot:	1 pot per m ²
Crop time from plug to finished product:	
12 cm pots:	summer 15 weeks winter 20 wks
17 cm pots:	summer 20 weeks winter 25 weeks
Pests/diseases:	
Aphids, Spider mites and Thrips.	
S. Actinophylla is more susceptible to root problems like Phytium, directly after planting. This can be avoided by applying small amounts of water at a time and reducing irrigation when temperatures are high.	

Finishing:



Soil/media:

Use a well-drained, soil mix with a pH between 6.2-6.6 and an EC of (1:1.5) 0.6 – 0.9 mS/cm. Keep a eye on pH. Schefflera is susceptible to manganese, caused by a low pH.



Moisture:

Keep the potting medium uniformly moist but not wet. Irrigate regularly. Reduce watering when temperatures are high (better irrigate in the evening or the following morning). Watering with ebb/flow floors or sub-irrigation is preferred.

A relative humidity of 70 to 85 % is ideal.



Temperature:

Ideal cultivation temperatures are between 16 and 18°C. The crop tolerates lower temperature easily but will grow slower. To harden off or store, keep temperatures above 12°C.



Light:

Start screening at 400 watt, with LS 15 or 16. Apply chalk at 500 watt from mid spring to the end of summer to keep the RH in the greenhouse on track.



Fertilization:

EC target value in the pot (1:1.5) 0.6 – 0.9 mS/cm. Set EC release at 1,6 – 1.8 and pH at 5,8. S. actinophylla is susceptible to ethylene. For extra shiny leaves you can spray with a urea-containing fertilizer or a seaweed extract.

Cultivation tips:

- Keep the temperature of used water at a minimum of 16°C.
- Pinch outgrowth tips to encourage branching and a more compact growth habit.
- Schefflera growth can be regulated with Daminozide. It may respond very slowly, yet the active substance builds up in the plant. Schefflera arboricola responds quicker to PGR.

This information is for general guidance only, and is in some cases specific for North West European conditions. No guarantee is given for the result of the crop, nor is liability accepted for the consequences of applying the indications given.