

Schefflera

Amate™

- Clean, Glossy Leaves
- Mite Resistant
- Nematode-Free
- Drip Fertigated
- 4 Plants Per Pot
- Extra Full



14" Schefflera
Amate™

**Schefflera Amate™
from Kraft Gardens —
the best keeps getting better!**

Professional Grade Plants™ is a Registered Trademark of Kraft Gardens, Inc.

Available Sizes

Schefflera Amate™
14" Container 60" - 72"
Schefflera Amate™
17" Container 78" - 90"

Try other Scheffleras:

Schefflera Renegade™
10" Container 36" - 42"
Schefflera Renegade™
12" Container 54" - 60"
Schefflera Dazzle
10" Container 48" - 52"

MAINTENANCE TIPS

Amates™ have a very fine hair root systems. After transporting, Amates™ may wilt, but soil could still be moist. Check soil for moisture before watering. Amates™ will generate new roots rapidly as long as they are evenly moist.

If Amate™ leaves are cupped it is a indication of excess light or heat stress. If roots appear to have bumps or knots in them then they are infected with Root Knot Nematodes.

KRAFT GARDENS
Professional Grade Plants™



Care Instructions

LIGHT: 150 to 2000 ft. candles

WATER: Don't over water. Water weekly as needed, depending on light levels.

FERTILIZE: Three or four times per year with 1 teaspoon of 20-20-20 per gallon of water.

TEMPERATURE: Ideal 65° to 75° Minimum 40°

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Professional Grade Plants™

A Star is Born

In 1983, Dr. Archie Amate gave Ray Oglesby, the founder of Oglesby Laboratories International, a sport of a *Schefflera Actinophylla*. Ray tested these new cultivars side by side with regular *S. Actinophylla* and discovered that the new cultivars did not get leaf spots (from *Alternaria*) like the regular Scheffs.

Oglesby contacted growers of *Schefflera* and offered it to them for production. No one was interested, until he contacted his friend Bert Kraft (founder of Kraft Gardens) who was willing to take the risk and start growing the plant commercially. It was on that day that Ray, Bert and Kevin Kraft (owner of Kraft Gardens) called Archie Amate and got his permission to name the plant after him. *Schefflera Amate™* was born.

At that meeting, it was decided that Kraft Gardens would buy Oglesby tissue culture plants and grow liners to sell and market to other growers as well as grow finished product for itself. Kraft knew from experience that marketing a product exclusively was not the way to develop a market. It was also agreed upon that as long as Kraft did a good job of marketing and bought all of Oglesby's stock, Kraft would have first right of refusal on *Amate™* production. After a handshake, the agreement was made.

Amate™ Makes a Name for Itself

Oglesby and Kraft persevered through production hardships and convincing other growers that *Amate™* was worth the extra money. Oglesby finally developed new methods of propagation and eventually started producing their own liners. By this time, Kraft had established a presence in the market and kept perfecting their own growing techniques.

In 1988, Kraft Gardens built the first moving shade system for a shade house in Florida to grow *Amate™*. Testing was conducted by Dr. Sven Svenson and he determined that *Amate™* grew faster and fuller. Further tests conducted at the University of Florida in 1989 determined that *Amate™* was resistant to spider mites. This made *Amate™* even more attractive to growers and interiorscapers, and demand was on the rise. Kraft also tested levels of fertilizer rates and found that *Amate™* grew even better and faster at lower levels of fertilizer.

We advanced further by putting a drip fertigation system in place and started controlling feed rates at precise levels. Later tests showed that *Amate™* was susceptible to nematodes. By growing them on benches in the 1990's, and through modified surfaces in the shade house today, all *Amate™* from Kraft Gardens are nematode-free.

Amate™ is now the dominant large-leaf *Schefflera* in today's market, and Kraft Gardens remains the preferred choice by most interiorscapers. Kraft continues to conduct research on improving *Amate™* in cooperation with USDA, University of Florida, and Oglesby Laboratories.

Growing a Professional Grade Plant™

Kraft Gardens built a new state of the art facility with *Amate™* in mind. The new Retracto-roof shade house has a computer-controlled, moving roof and sidewall system that regulates light, temperature, humidity, and airflow. This environment gives *Amate™* shorter leaf internodes, creating a fuller plant while maintaining soft, shade-acclimatized leaves.



The new *Amate™* facility has been engineered to include sloped floors and a modified surface for drainage. This eliminates standing water in production areas and stops any contamination of nematodes. *Amate™* is highly susceptible to Root-knot nematodes, which severely impede the intake of water and nutrients of a plant's roots. This slowly kills off the roots, and eventually the plant itself. Once *Amate™* contracts nematodes there is no chemical available to eliminate them. Our production team sterilizes floors before a new *Amate™* crop is put out. We use sterile pots, certified nematode-free soil, and only the cleanest stock from Oglesby Laboratories. In fact, our growing process is so good that we are certified by the Department of Agriculture to ship *Amate™* to California, which is the most stringent state on being nematode-free. These processes insure that the *Amate™* you receive from Kraft Gardens will give you the performance and longevity on the interior job that you have come to expect.

Kraft Gardens uses a drip fertigation system controlled by our central computer. This eliminates the need for overhead irrigation that can cause staining and residue build up on the leaves. Our liquid feed replaces the use of poly-coated slow-release fertilizers that have a tendency to release excess salts in the soil. Our growers check the moisture content of the *Amate™* and instruct the computer to distribute a precise amount of water and fertilizer needed for that day. The growers also test the amount of E.C. (salts) in the soil to insure the roots get just the right amount of fertilizer. Our quality standards require us to use four plants in every *Amate™* we produce to give you the fullest plant available anywhere.

It is no wonder that an *Amate™* from Kraft Gardens is extra full, extremely shiny, nematode-free, and the most durable, long lasting *Amate™* on the market today. So if you're shopping for *Schefflera Amate™* and deserve the very best, specify a Kraft Gardens *Amate™* that has earned the right to be called a Professional Grade Plant™.