



Boston Fern

Nephrolepis

07-06



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 8, 9, 12-24, H1, H2	Some shade, bright indirect light	Tolerate poor soil	Regular watering	No flowers, sori on the underside of fronds	2-3 feet tall

These are Ferns that are found wild in many tropical areas, including Africa, America, Malaya and the West Indies. *Nephrolepis* is a small group, but contains many beautiful kinds that are well adapted for growing in pots in the greenhouse or home. The most popular are the varieties of *N. exaltata*, a plant that grows wild from Florida southward into Brazil and in Africa and eastern Asia. This Fern produces fronds, 3-5 feet in length and 2-6 inches wide. They have stiff midribs that are covered with fine brown hairs and the leaflets (pinnae), which are about half an inch wide, are set closely along each side of the midrib. There are many pretty varieties of *N. exaltata*. One well-known kind is *N. exaltata bostoniensis*, the Boston Fern, which has long, graceful, drooping fronds. The fronds of *N. exaltata Piersoni*, *N. exaltata Piersoni improved* and *N. exaltata massii* are bipinnate--that is, each of the little leaflets is divided into segments, giving it a feathery look. Some fronds are tripinnate, which gives them more of a fine, feathery look than the bipinnate kinds. These Ferns need a minimum temperature of 55-60 degrees and a fairly humid atmosphere.