# Sword Fern

***Nephrolepis cordifolia***



*Sword Fern foliage*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: Boston Fern, Tuber Ladder Fern, Fishbone Fern

**Description:**

Elegant, finely-toothed, sword-shaped fronds rise from short, hairy leaf stems; an impressive groundcover for a woodland area; great in hanging baskets or containers, for indoors or out

**Features & Attributes**

Sword Fern's attractive glossy ferny pinnately compound leaves remain green in color throughout the year on a plant with an arching habit of growth.

This is a dense herbaceous evergreen houseplant with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other indoor plants with less refined foliage. This plant should not require much pruning, except when necessary to keep it looking its best.

**Planting & Growing**

When grown indoors, Sword Fern can be expected to grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. This houseplant performs well in both bright or indirect sunlight and strong artificial light, and can therefore be situated in almost any well-lit room or location. It does best in average to evenly moist soil, but will not tolerate standing water. The surface of the soil shouldn't be allowed to dry out completely, and so you should expect to water this plant once and possibly even twice each week. Be aware that your particular watering schedule may vary depending on its location in the room, the pot size, plant size and other conditions; if in doubt, ask one of our experts in the store for advice. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soil. Contact the store for specific recommendations on pre-mixed potting soil for this plant.

There are many factors that will affect the ultimate height, spread and overall performance of a plant when grown indoors; among them, the size of the pot it's growing in, the amount of light it receives, watering frequency, the pruning regimen and repotting schedule. Use the information described here as a guideline only; individual performance can and will vary. Please contact the store to speak with one of our experts if you are interested in further details concerning recommendations on pot size, watering, pruning, repotting, etc.