

Nephrolepis exaltata

COMMON NAME

southern sword fern

FAMILY

Nephrolepidaceae

AUTHORITY

Nephrolepis exaltata (L.) Schott

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION

Introduced and Naturalised. New Zealand: Auckland, Hamilton, Napier and Wellington. Indigenous throughout tropics.

HABITAT

Urban areas and disturbed forest margins. Often a glasshouse 'weed'.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and can be grown from spores. Indications are that this species, at least in the warmer parts of New Zealand is likely to be as invasive as *Nephrolepis cordifolia*.

YEAR NATURALISED

2014

ORIGIN

Unknown

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

An ornamental species

ETYMOLOGY

nephrolepis: Kidney scale

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (18 January 2017).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Large M. 2016. Introduced *Nephrolepis* in New Zealand. *Trilepidea* 149: 4–5.

Large M, Farrington L. 2016. The *Nephrolepis* Boston fern complex (including *Nephrolepis exaltata* (L.) Schott), Nephrolepidaceae, naturalised in New Zealand. *Perspectives in Biosecurity Research Series* 2: 1–7.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Nephrolepis exaltata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nephrolepis-exaltata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION



Mature fertile fronds of the crested race that is the most commonly seen morph wild in New Zealand. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 17/01/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Fertile frond of the non-crested frond race also found wild in New Zealand. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 17/01/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC.

