

Nephrolepis cordifolia

COMMON NAME

tuber sword fern

FAMILY

Nephrolepidaceae

AUTHORITY

Nephrolepis cordifolia (L.) C.Presl

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

NVS CODE

NEPCOR

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Open forest, clay banks, track margins, rock outcrops.
Lowland sites: rock outcrops, track margins.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial or epiphytic fern to 1 m. **Rhizomes** small, erect, scaly, producing many long runners and round, 1–3 cm hairy potato-like tubers (the only fern with tubers). **Fronde**s 40–100 × 5–8 cm, erect (arching when long), pinnae leaflets) serrated.

SIMILAR TAXA

The indigenous *Nephrolepis flexuosa* is similar, fronds to only 65 cm, no tubers, rare (geothermal sites, Raoul). *Nephrolepis exaltata* (also called Boston fern) a common indoor fern, is occasionally found wild it differs from *N. cordifolia* by having wider, softer fronds and no tubers.

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial; reproduces vegetatively by tubers. Dispersed by people sharing plants and dumping garden waste.

YEAR NATURALISED

1974

ORIGIN

pantropic

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

ETYMOLOGY

nephrolepis: Kidney scale



Sori on pinnae undersides; very dry sandy garden; 16 Virginia Heights, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 24/04/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Nephrolepis cordifolia. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nephrolepis-cordifolia/>