



SANTA  
ROSA  
TROPICALS

P.O. BOX 6183 • SANTA ROSA, CA 95406

## 'Australian Sword Fern'

*Nephrolepis obliterated*

This fern is native to Australia and was introduced to the temperate parts of the United States almost 20 years ago. It is unusually versatile in habit so it may be used in 6" pots as a table fern, 8" and 10" baskets as a hanging basket, and also in 1 and 3 gallon containers for the landscape. The Australian Sword is excellent in baskets because its older fronds do not shed as profusely as some other baskets. In the landscape it is semi-hardy and survives temperatures into the low 20's. This is a superb fern for filling in an area in the garden or as a border along paths and flower beds. Note...this fern can take full morning sun!

Image  
not Available

### Culture for best commercial production:

**Light:** 1200 fc to 2000+ fc.

**Temperature:** 60° to 85° F. Survives temperatures well above and below but growth slows or stops altogether. Takes light frosts without damage and will come back in the spring even after nights in the high teens.

**Feed:** 100 to 150 ppm on constant feed (like Excel 15-5-15) with available Ca, Mg & pH around 6.0. Foliage should stay dark green all the time.

**Water:** more ferns are harmed by overwatering than holding back on the water. Water well then allow to dry lightly before watering again.

**Potting Mix:** This is often dictated by what is available locally. The key elements are low salts and excellent drainage. Some peat helps to retain fertilizer salts and keep water available to the root hairs.

**Pest Control:** This fern is generally quite pest free. Decree ® can be used for prevention of botrytis in very wet winters.

**Container:** 6" pots, 8" and 10" baskets plus 1 and 3 gallon containers!

**Schedule:** (starting with a Santa Rosa Tropicals plug)

4" starter pot - 8 to 12 weeks; 6" pot - 12 to 16 weeks from a 4" pot; 8" basket - 16 to 24 weeks from a 4" pot; One gallon - 12 to 16 weeks from a 4" pot, or 20 weeks if stuck directly in a gallon. Pot all year on a regular rotation for year round sales

