



SANTA  
ROSA  
TROPICALS

P.O. BOX 6183 • SANTA ROSA, CA 95406

## 'Bluebell'

*Nephrolepis exaltata*

©1999  
Santa Rosa  
Tropicals



Finally a Boston relative that mimics the uniform growth of a 10" Boston but is symmetrical enough even when young to use successfully in a 6" pot or even in a 6" or an 8" basket! The fronds on 'Bluebell' are a little shorter than a Boston so that the growth habit tends more toward ball-shaped rather than adding length to the hanging fronds. 'Bluebell' is also a little lighter green than a Boston so there is no doubt when looking at a finished plant that it is definitely 'Bluebell'.

### Growing Information

**Zone:** 9-10

**Light:** Filtered sun. Inside the home the danger is 'too dark'.

**Temperature:** Comfortable house temperatures are fine. Can be grown outside as long as temperatures do not go below freezing.

**Feed:** Quarter to half strength of any soluble fertilizer (the dissolving powder kind) from the local nursery is fine when new growth is present. Miracle Gro® or equivalent works well.

**Water:** more ferns are harmed by overwatering than holding back on the water. Wants to be watered well and then allowed to begin to get almost dry before the next watering.

**Potting Mix:** Should have some peat for ion exchange capacity but must drain well. Dolomite for Ca and Mg helps keep the color.

**Pest Control:** Quite pest-free. Most pests can be brushed off with a Q-tip and alcohol or just plain water if found early enough.

**Pot size:** 6" pots or 6" to 10" baskets. Plastic pots dry out more evenly but clay looks great.

**Repotting:** Can stay for a very long time in a pot. Problems arise when it is so pot bound that it requires water too often. 'Bluebell' can then be moved up to a larger pot, or divided quite safely into several new pots. (See our 'Fern Tips' page for simple tricks to help when repotting your ferns).

