



SANTA
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TROPICALS

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'Boston Fern'

*Nephrolepis
exaltata*

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Santa Rosa
Tropicals



The 'Boston Fern' is the fern of ferns. Since its introduction in the early 1900's it has been used in more ways and is found in more homes (and on more stage sets) than all other ferns combined! Santa Rosa Tropicals is renowned for their ultra-reliable 'Boston Fern' clone.

Growing Information

Zone: 9-10

Light: In the home the dangers are too dark, too wet. So it is necessary to try to find the brightest location for the "Boston". If there is not a natural show place with the right amount of light, a good trick is to keep it somewhere where it is bright and only move it to its show spot when company comes!

Temperature: Normal home temperatures are fine. In the winter, the low temperature can go down to the upper 30's without serious damage, but growth slows to a stop below 55°.

Feed: One-fourth to one-half strength of Miracle Gro® or similar when new growth appears.

Water: Boston's are sensitive to over watering. Allow time between waterings to allow the pot to become significantly lighter. Over water shows up both in root tip damage and irregular length in the side leaflets along the frond.

Potting Mix: Good drainage is the key to a good mix. Oxygen must get to the roots so air spaces must be maintained. The mix should have some peat but needs aged bark or other readily available material to keep it open.

Pest Control: Generally pest free, they can attract aphids, brown scale and can be attacked by caterpillars. Generally watching carefully and washing off the first invaders will keep most problems to a minimum. See your local garden center if you need help.

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

Repotting: "Boston" ferns can be moved up to larger pots or divided when they become pot-bound. If moving up to larger pots, do not disturb the roots, just add new potting mix around the edge. When dividing, first shorten the length of the fronds so they won't use as much water at first. Then try to divide along natural 'clump' lines with a sharp knife or fine toothed saw. If it is so full that you can't see patterns, just divide it into quarters. It will survive just fine!

