



SANTA
ROSA
TROPICALS

P.O. BOX 6183 • SANTA ROSA, CA 95406

'The Boston Fern'

Nephrolepis exaltata

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.



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Culture for best commercial production:

Light: 1000 to 2500+ foot candles.

Temperature: Normal growing range should be 63° to 85°. The low temperature can go down to the 30's, but growth slows to a stop below 55°.

Feed: 100 to 225 ppm of nitrogen in a ratio similar to 15-5-15 which will maintain steady growth and color. The exact ppm should be adjusted for individual greenhouse conditions to maintain the most uniform growth and deep green fronds.

Water: Boston's are sensitive to over watering. Allow time between waterings to allow the pot to become significantly lighter. If watering a long line of hanging baskets, it is ok to allow one or two to show a pale grey-green cast indicating a real need for water before watering the entire line. 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. Talstar® plus Orthene® is a good combination.

Schedule: For best timing, request a copy of the Santa Rosa Tropicals schedule for 'Boston Fern' production. In summary the schedule is timed to bump-up 4" into 8" or 10" baskets before the fronds are so long that they are hard to handle. Finish times will vary slightly depending on the desired length of fronds and geographic location of the finish grower.

