

Boston Fern

Nephrolepis exaltata 'Bostoniensis'

Boston Fern is considered by many to be the classic house plant. Fronds are a deep green color and can grow from 2 feet up to 5 feet long.

Basics: Boston Fern requires bright light. In a greenhouse it is grown hanging up near the roof in the brightest light available. In the lower light of most homes the plant may continuously shed leaves. Boston ferns prefer cool to average home temperatures. Soil should be kept partially dry; the plant will rot if it is watered too frequently. Place in a location out of any drafts.

Special Care: Cutting old fronds off at the soil will help encourage growth of new fronds. While Boston Fern is actively growing, it may be fertilized every 4-6 weeks with $\frac{1}{4}$ the recommended concentration. Spray with water to clean dust off its foliage; do not mist too frequently, since the fronds are sensitive to salt impurities in tap water.

Potential Pest Problems: Mealybugs, spider mites, and scale insects can pose problems. Snails and slugs can be problems on plants placed outdoors.

Propagation: Boston Fern is best propagated by division.

Reference:

Helmer, Jane Coleman. *Pictorial Guide to House Plants*. Ed. Karla S. Decker Hodge. Kalamazoo, Michigan: Merchants Company, 1993. 86-87.

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