

## *Nephrolepis cordifolia*

tuberous sword fern



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**Appearance:** Epiphytic, epilithic (on rock), or terrestrial in habit. Rhizomes suberect, with spreading, orange-brown to pale brown linear scales, these with hairlike tips. Wiry, straw-colored, scaly stolons usually present in great numbers, often producing small, scaly underground tubers.

**Leaves:** To 1 m long; petioles to 20 cm (8 in) long, with spreading, pale-brown scales; leaflets (pinnae) many, 40–100 on each side of rachis (main stalk of frond). Each leaflet (pinna) oblong-lanceolate with a deltoid lobe (auricle) on upper side of blade base that usually overlaps rachis.

**Spores:** Sporangia in a single row on each side of mid-vein. Natural dispersal of spores and accidental movement of stolons, tubers and rhizomes, particularly by dumping yard refuse.

### **Ecological threat:**

Can spread aggressively in the landscape, tending to form dense stands that displace native ground cover.

*Nephrolepis multiflora* is also listed on FLEPPC's Category II list of invasive exotics.



**Distribution:** NW, NE, C, SW, SE

### **Field Notations**

NEPHCORD/NEPHR

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