



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

NEPHROLEPIS CARE GUIDE

LIGHT

Boston, Kimberly Queen and Macho ferns belong to the Nephrolepis group. Indoors, give them bright, indirect light near an east or north window. Filter strong afternoon sun with a sheer curtain. Outdoors in summer, begin in shade and avoid suddenly exposing fronds to hot sun.

WATERING

Keep the root ball evenly moist, allowing the surface to become just slightly dry before watering again. Water thoroughly until excess runs from the drainage holes, then empty the saucer. Do not let the pot dry out completely or stand in water. Hanging baskets may need frequent checks in warm weather.

SOIL

Use a loose, moisture-retentive potting mix rich in organic matter, with enough drainage to prevent soggy roots. Choose a pot with drainage holes and repot when roots become crowded. Increase the pot size only modestly so extra soil does not stay wet for too long.

TEMPERATURE

Most indoor ferns enjoy temperatures around 60-75 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep them away from heaters and cold drafts. Dry winter air can brown the frond tips; a room humidifier can help. These tropical ferns are not winter-hardy outdoors in Maine and should come inside before frost.

FERTILIZING

Feed lightly while new fronds are growing in spring and summer, using a houseplant fertilizer at the label's recommended dilution. Ferns do not need heavy feeding. Reduce or pause fertilizer when winter growth slows, and avoid feeding a plant with a dry root ball.

PESTS

Inspect the undersides of fronds for scale, mealybugs and spider mites. Remove dead fronds with clean scissors and isolate plants with pests. Fern foliage can be sensitive to sprays, so use only a product labeled for the plant and pest, and test a small area first.