

# Weed Profile

## Fishbone Fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*)



### Identification



**Leaves:**  
Opposite or alternate. Lightly serrated, glossy lime green. 80cm long, 3-9cm wide.

**Stalks:**  
Brown and woody.



**Rhizomes:**  
Erect rhizomes often bearing globular tubers and often forming mats.



**Tubers:**  
Brown, water-filled and covered with brown scales. Used for the storage of water and nutrients.

**Weed rating:** Weed profiles will now give a rating out of five to indicate the long-term damage the weed does to the bushland considering time consumed to remove, seed longevity and rate of spread. These ratings are purely the author's opinion and the opinion of others is encouraged. Ratings for previously profiled weeds are:

Broad-leaf Privet <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	☠☠
Green Cestrum <i>Cestrum parqui</i>	☠☠☠
Panic Veldgrass <i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	☠☠☠☠
Trad <i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	☠☠
Lantana <i>Lantana camara</i>	☠☠
Cobblers Pegs <i>Bidens pilosa</i>	☠☠
Asparagus Fern <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	☠☠☠☠

### Weed Rating

Fishbone Fern *Nephrolepis cordifolia*



### References:

Lyn McDougall and Robin Buchanan, Weed Profile Sheets produced for Ryde TAFE, 1994.  
"Winning The War On Weeds", Mark A. Wolff, 1999, Kangaroo Press.

Winter 2002

# Native Ferns of Mosman

### Gristle Fern

*Blechnum cartilagineum*



A robust and harsh fern forming tufts to 60-100cm high. The finely toothed fronds of this fern vary from being a rosy pink when young, to a light green or dark green. Commonly found in wet sclerophyll forests.

In Mosman, it is abundantly found at Rosherville Reserve, with small patches found in sheltered areas of Balmoral, Lawry Plunkett and Quakers Hat Reserve. In large tufts, this fern is a favourite foraging place for small birds such as the Superb Blue Wren.



### Rasp Fern

*Doodia aspera*



A small tufting fern with rough, stiff fronds. Usually found in colonies in shady, damp areas on the floor of rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest.

Can be confused with the weed *Nephrolepis cordifolia* (Fishbone Fern). However, the fronds of Rasp Fern are very rough to the touch, stalks are black, and young fronds are pink to red in colour.



### Fragrant Fern

*Microsorium scandens*



Its common name is taken from the musky smell exuded from the fresh fronds of this fern. It is mostly found in subtropical rainforest, often in dense colonies of rocks and trees.

In Mosman, this epiphytic (growing on trees or rocks, but not parasitic) fern is only found in the deep gullies of Reid Park.



**Reference:** Les Robinson, Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney, Kangaroo Press, 1991 (second edition)

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