Nephrolepis cordifolia
SWORD FERN
Nephrolepidaceae

Common Synonyms: none

FLEPPC Category: 1
FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No
IFAS Assessment
North OK
Central INVASIVE
South CAUTION

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8b-10b
Growth Habit: Forb/Herb
Origin: Unknown

Description: Perennial grass to 1 m (3 ft) tall, from sturdy, vigorous, widely creeping or floating rhizomes with overlapping brownish to white scales and rigid sharppointed (torpedo-like) growing tips. Aerial stems erect or leaning, lower portions often wrapped in bladeless sheaths. Upper leaf sheaths glabrous or hairy, usually at least with hairs on upper margins; ligule a short-ciliate membrane; leaf blades stiff, linear, flat or folded, to 26 cm (10 in) long and 5.3 mm (0.3 in) wide, glabrous or sparsely hairy below, usually long-hairy above, especially near base behind ligule; blade surfaces often with a whitish waxy coating (?bloom?). Inflorescence a loose open terminal panicle, 7-22 cm (3-9 in) long, with branches erect or ascending. Spikelets 2-3 mm long and about 1 mm wide, glabrous, the first glume (outermost spikelet bract) short, truncate, loose, nearly encircling the base of the other spikelet bracts.

Habitat: Wet hammocks, usually on limestone or around old homesites and disturbed places; sometimes epiphytic.

Florida Introduction Date: Earliest Florida specimen available vouchered in 1933
Control Methods: Glyphosate 41.0% L/2,4-D.
Useful Resources:
http://davesgarden.com accessed 13 June, 2017

Comments: