

## Invasive Alien Plants of Nature's Valley

Under newly published NEMBA regulations these plants are category 1b weeds and must be *removed and destroyed immediately*. They may not be planted or propagated. These plants have a high invasive potential and threaten biodiversity.



**Sword Fern** – *Nephrolepis exaltata* is a tufted evergreen fern growing up to 1m high which forms extensive colonies by means of stolons. The bright green leaves are approximately 1m long by 60mm wide. It has arching to erect, linear fronds with shallowly toothed, sickle-shaped pinnae.

Sword fern compete with and replace indigenous species by forming thick infestations.

A major problem in well watered areas like Nature's Valley. It has been found in the surrounding indigenous forest.

The entire plant must be removed and destroyed especially all the stolons (balletjies). Repeated follow-up is essential.

**Ginger-lilies** – *Hedychium spp.* These are vigorous plants up to 2m high with broad, bright green leaves which sheath the stems. Fragrant flowers occur in spikes up to 30cm long from January to April.

