Fishbone fern  \textit{(Non Restricted Invasive Weed)}  
\textit{Nephrolepis cordifolia}

Although fishbone fern is a native species to the region, it has become a weed of bushland areas around urban settlements.

The dense growth of the underground roots, rhizomes and fleshy tubers, combined with the prolific leaf growth, outcompetes most other native plants and prevents their regeneration.

Fishbone fern is a native plant that can experience prolific growth cycles. In these situations, fishbone fern can be considered an invasive plant.

**Description**

The glossy lime green fronds grow 50-100cm tall and around 5-9cm wide. The leaflets are slightly serrated, and the back of them may be covered with brown spores. They grow masses of matted fibrous roots, along with underground rhizomes and fleshy, water storing tubers.

**Management**

Control of fishbone fern is often time consuming. It does not respond well to herbicide treatment, and will often require multiple applications before effective control is achieved.

Hand removal is effective, but care must be taken to remove every piece of rhizome and every tuber, or else the weed will regenerate. This activity tends to disturb the soil and may cause further weed invasion or damage the roots of nearby native plants.

The plant readily grows from spores, and so repeated removal of new plants will be necessary for a period of time.

Larger infestations may require chemical control.

If you would like further information on weeds look at the A–Z Listing of Weeds at Queensland Government Website.