



HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

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moss

representative specimen

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Bryophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

Mosses grow in tight colonies. They do not have true roots, stems or leaves because they do not have vascular tissue (a transport system). The commonly seen part of these small plants is the green gametophyte, or gamete-producing structure. Water must be present for sexual reproduction to occur. The sporophyte, or spore-producing structure, may sometimes be seen growing up from the gametophyte with its thin stalk and spore capsule.

BEHAVIORS

Mosses may be found statewide in Illinois. They grow in moist, shaded areas in forests. These plants grow very close together which helps them to conserve moisture. Because their structures are so flat and thin, they tend to dry out very quickly. Mosses may grow on bare rock. As they grow, they act to break down the rock. As they die they add nutrients to the crumbling rock, giving other organisms a base to grow on.