

Common Mosses of the Ivy Creek Natural Area

Illustrations by Lara Call Gastinger

Hedwigia ciliata

One of the mosses found growing on rocks, *Hedwigia* is a tiny branched upright dark green dead looking plant that brightens up after a rain. It can be found on rocks at the far edge of the Blue Trail and along Martin's Branch.



Leucobryum glaucum

"Cushion moss" is a grey-green conspicuous plant growing in large clumps on poor, dry soil. It is easily seen on the Brown Trail under the stunted cedars.



Polytrichum commune

Standing out as dark green miniature fir forests is the "Haircap Moss." Its four angled capsule on a long stalk persists year round. This moss is common everywhere at Ivy Creek Natural Area.



Thuidium sp.

"Fern moss" - the most common being *Thuidium delicatulum* - is named for the twice pinnate 'fern-like fronds' which form dense mats over rotted logs or soils

Atrichum undulatum

Atrichums, related to the polytrichums, lack the striking capsule. These smaller mosses prefer moist shady habitats and are common at Ivy Creek.



Bryoandersonia illecebra

This moss (no common name) is best described as a shiny bright yellow green ropey mass of plants found growing on soil in shady areas.



Fontinalis sp.

"Fountain moss" as its name indicates, is a large dark green many branched aquatic moss that can be seen off the Red Trail in Martin's Branch.



Mnium sp.

There are several mniiums found at Ivy Creek - all characterized by large translucent bright green leaves arranged on upright stems or on runners. Look for these mosses in shady moist areas.