

Mosses



General Info

Mosses are tiny plants with stems and leaves but produce spores instead of flowers and seeds. (They share many important characteristics with another plant group called liverworts and are collectively called bryophytes). Not all mosses are small; some have shoots 80cm tall and a few aquatic forms have shoots that reach over a metre. However, the most common types at TreeZone have shoots that only reach a few millimetres. Some grow vertically while others creep and clamber over rocks and trees.

Mosses are everywhere in Scotland, there are hundreds of species and they represent a diverse and unique part of our biodiversity. This success is due to Scotland's distinct landscape and a climate that is strongly influenced by the Atlantic Ocean. Relatively warm winters with a lack of hard frosts and the cool, wet, drought free summers, especially on the west coast, provide perfect conditions for these little plants. They thrive in many of Scotland's varied habitats including woodlands, mountains, heaths, rivers, springs, mires and even sand dunes. If you look closely you will spot different types of moss growing on the trees and the forest floor around TreeZone. This is why we ask our customers to tread carefully and stick to the paths which will help preserve the areas delicate ecosystem.



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