

Moss Zoom Class, Supplemental/Optional Class

Northern Maine MMNP

September 10, 2026

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The MMNP core curriculum does not currently have a unit on moss. However, the coordinators felt that it would be helpful for you to have a supplemental class on this topic to enhance your knowledge, to assist you in answering the inevitable questions about moss that arise in the course of walks with other themes, and to whet your curiosity about these lovely organisms.

This class is optional and does not have homework nor does it have a scheduled field day during this academic cycle. We would be happy to arrange a moss walk for you after graduation day if requested.

Learning goals, PowerPoint, and supplemental materials have been prepared by Ellen Gellerstedt. The handout was prepared by Alice Noyes with input from Ellen.

Student Learning Goals:

- Describe how mosses are like other plants and how they are different
- Describe the growing needs of moss and how that determines location, species, and growth form
- Appreciate the unique reproductive cycle of mosses
- Recognize a few common mosses and liverworts on the forest floor and on trees
- Learn ways to further your knowledge of moss if you like

Vocabulary:

Acrocarp	Calyptra	Operculum
Alar Cells	Capsule	Seta
Antheridium	Costa	Spore
Archegonia	Gametophyte	Sporophyte

Pre-class assignment: While this is not required, it would be helpful if you spend some time in the woods noticing where moss lives and the forms it takes when you look closely.

You may also want to download and review the handout by Alice Noyes that in the Moss Folder in your student course materials.

Bring to Class: Loupe

Fern collection provided by Ellen at August field day

Fill spray bottle before class

Moss handout by Alice Noyes

Homework: None

Additional Resources:

1. Jenkins, Jerry, Mosses of the Northern Forest: A Photographic Guide. Cornell University Press. 2020. ISBN10:1501748610 - Best for beginners, no traditional keys!
2. Kimmerer, Robin Wall, Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural history of Mosses. Oregon State University Press. ISBN 10: 0870714996. 2003.
3. Martin, Annie, Magical World of Moss Gardening. Press. ISBN10: 1604695609
Excellent images of 30 common eastern mosses & propagation tips
4. McKnight, KD, Rohrer, JR, McKnight Ward, K and Perdrizet, WD, Common Mosses of the Northeast and Appalachians. Princeton University Press. ISBN10: 0691156964. 2013
5. Northern Forest Atlas,
Mosses of the Northern Forest - Digital Atlas (free) –
(click “Download PDF” on this page):
<https://northernforestatlas.org/2023/01/30/mosses-of-the-northern-forest-digital-atlas/>
6. Pope, Ralph, Mosses, Liverworts, & Hornworts: A Field Guide to Common Bryophytes of the Northeast. 2016. Comstock Publishing Associates. ISBN10: 1501700782. Contains an easy to use key
7. Williams , Sue Alix, Ecological Guide to the Mosses and Common Liverworts of the Northeast. Comstock Publishing. ISBN10: 1501767720. 2023. Another ecologically based resource for beginners
8. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBdQnONspEc> A video on moss reproduction

