Common Mosses of the Ivy Creek Natural Area

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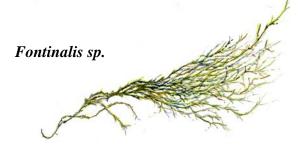
Hedwigia ciliata

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.



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.



"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.

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 und



seen on the Brown Trail under the stunted cedars.



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.





Mnium sp.

There are several mniums 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.