

# Moss

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Habitat Setup and Maintenance

The mosses and liverworts supplied by Carolina require higher humidity than most houseplants and are best maintained in terraria or greenhouses. Mosses are excellent terrarium subjects, but you can easily damage most species when you overwater them. Although mosses thrive in a rather humid atmosphere, they prefer a location that is adequately drained.

Sphagnum moss, on the other hand, requires a lot of moisture; never let it dry completely. Dampen potting soil and place it in a terrarium or greenhouse flat. Make a shallow depression in the potting medium roughly the size and shape of the moss mat. Place the moss into this depression and press down to make good contact with the soil. Press the soil up around the sides of the moss mat. The moss should project above the surface of the soil. Mist daily and keep in a shaded location away from direct sunlight.

Liverworts may be stored in their plastic shipping container for several days in a cool place. If you want to maintain your liverworts for any length of time, transfer them onto wet peat moss, sphagnum, or a mixture of peat moss and humus. A medium with a pH of 4.5 to 5.5 and low mineral content is preferable.

Before transplanting liverworts, remove any damaged parts and moisten the thalli if they appear to be dry. Press the plants down slightly into the growing medium to ensure proper soil contact. Propagate thallose liverworts by breaking the clump of thalli into small portions or individual thallus, and plant on one of the above media.

Porella, a leafy liverwort, requires a wetter habitat.

### FAQ's

*What is a thallose?*

A thallose is a flat, leaf-like plant body that is a characteristic growth form of many liverworts and related plants. The thallose usually lies flat against the soil surface. In contrast, leafy liverworts have a central stem from which leaf blades arise.

*Our moss turned brown and appears dead.*

This can indicate too little humidity or a potting medium that is too basic. If the potting soil is moist to the touch or if moisture has condensed on the inside of the terrarium, suspect the potting soil. Start over with a more acidic mixture such as a woodland soil mix.

*What are the thin spikes that are growing out of the tops of our moss plants?*

This is the spore-producing stage of the moss life cycle. A spore capsule will form at the tip of each spike.

*Can I grow my own moss?*

Yes, the easiest way to get started is with our item #152621, Moss Minimarsh.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)

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