

Lichen and Ball moss and
friends

Tree
accompaniments



Lichen

Lichens are hybrid colonies of algae or cyanobacteria living symbiotically among filaments of fungi species, with yeasts and bacteria embedded in the cortex in a mutualistic relationship.



Ball moss

Tillandsia recurvata, ball moss, is a flowering plant in the family Bromeliaceae that grows upon larger host plants in areas with low light, little airflow, and high humidity, such as the southern live oak.





Spanish moss and Mistletoe



Spanish moss is a non-parasitic epiphytic flowering plant, draping from trees, found in Eastern and Southern Texas area near rivers, swamps, and coastal plains.

Mistletoe is an obligate hemiparasitic plant attached to a tree or shrub by a haustorium, which extracts water and nutrients from the host, commonly found in Texas on hardwoods.

Things to look for when observing trees in winter

- Leaves on the ground or hanging on
- Fruits and cones
- Twigs> bud scales, lenticels, leaf scars, pith, accumulated on ground
- Thorns, spines, prickles, barbs
- Bark> smooth, peel horizontal, peel vertical, scales, plates, strips, ridges and furrows, warts



Growing on trees

Can you find ball moss or lichen on trees in the park?

You can create a ball moss wreath gluing dry ball moss to a tagboard circle.

What foods could you combine to make an edible lichen snack?



A book
about
lichens

