



Reproduction in Spore-Producing Plants

Many plants that grow on the forest floor, such as mosses, ferns and liverworts, do not produce seeds. These plants reproduce by means of spores (see Figures 40 to 42). Spores are cells that contain complete genetic material. A spore can therefore transform into a young plant without fertilization. Male spores develop into plants that produce spermatozoa and female spores develop into plants that produce ovules. Figure 43 on the next page illustrates the sexual reproduction of spore-producing plants.



Figure 40 Soft, thick green moss grows in damp environments.



Figure 41 Liverworts are small, slow-growing plants that live in very damp environments. They reproduce by means of spores.



Figure 42 The fern is a spore-producing plant. Some ferns produce their spores in tiny sacs called sporangia located on the underside of their fronds.