

May 3, 2021

Graham and Michèle Kinsman
Kinsman Company
P.O. Box 428
Pipersville, PA 18947

Dear Graham and Michèle:

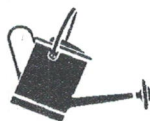
From time to time over the years I have bought tools, plant supports and other items from your comprehensive catalog and have always been pleased. I check each new catalog when it arrives – there is often an item that solves a gardening problem for which I didn't know there was such a clever or elegant solution.

I was dismayed, however, to see the Oregon Green Moss and Floral Sheet Moss in the latest catalog because I had recently read Gathering Moss by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Dr. Kimmerer explains how important mosses are to the plants and animals and rivers of the forest and thus to human beings, although the book is much more than that. One of the essays in the book, "The Bystander," describes the impact of harvesting these "old growth" mosses which will take decades to regrow, if they do at all.

Your wonderful catalog makes clear your love of nature. I hope you will take a moment to read Gathering Moss – it's a beautiful book – or at least "The Bystander" essay and consider if the Kinsman Company should participate in this destruction for purely decorative purposes.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,



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May 14, 2021

Dear Julia,

Thank you for the thoughtful letter that you sent us.

It was kind of you to say that our catalog “makes clear our love of nature”.

Although our main focus is ornamental gardening, we get huge daily pleasure from wild birds, insects and pollinators, and the native plants that host the caterpillars that feed young chicks. Our plantings are to draw the hummingbirds, bees and butterflies that are as beautiful as the flowers themselves.

Our long term home and our business are in Bucks County, PA. We live close to the Delaware River amid native woodlands of oaks, hickories and tulip poplars.

We also enjoy a family home on the coast of Maine – and lastly, we have a beach house in Cape Meares, Oregon near Tillamook, where we operated a West Coast warehouse for over 25 years.

It is from Tillamook that we obtain the Oregon Green Moss, *none* of which is harvested from Old Growth forests. We have dealt with the same reputable company for many years: Oregon Coast Evergreen. Most of their moss is harvested in advance of commercial Timber Sales, before permitted Clear Cutting removes all the trees and destroys the mosses. Followed by state-mandated replanting, of course.

The Western slopes of the Coastal Range are classified as Temperate Rain Forest and they receive around 120 inches of rain per year. These forests are owned by a bewildering array of entities: US Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State, Tillamook County, Oregon State Parks, US Dept of Forestry – and of course private Property Owners and timber companies like Weyerhaeuser.

With that kind of Winter and Spring rainfall, moss grows thickly and luxuriantly on the branches of the deciduous hardwood trees like alders and maples. Because it does not grow on the ground, it is quite clean. Every Spring, the mosses release trillions of spores that travel on the ocean breezes and start new colonies wherever they can land and get a foothold. So our overall experience, belief and feeling is that the Oregon Green Moss we purchase and sell in our catalog is responsibly gathered, before it would otherwise be destroyed by clear cutting. And it does re-grow luxuriantly, because of the rain forest conditions of the Coastal Range.

In its first 6 months after harvesting, it retains its lovely green color. Later on or next season it can be re-used in other containers – and last but not least it becomes a favorite nesting material for our chickadees and wrens, as well as for cozy winter roosting baskets..

If you would like to send me an Email, I would like to reply and send you some pictures I've taken of just how magnificently the Oregon Green Moss grows in our part of Oregon.

It is a lovely renewable crop that we would like to continue "rescuing" from the abundant and widespread Clear Cutting that is inevitably going to destroy it anyway. We do assure you that we would not offer it in our catalog if we felt we were destroying a precious natural resource.

Best Regards,

Graham and Michele Kinsman