

Fungi Spotting!

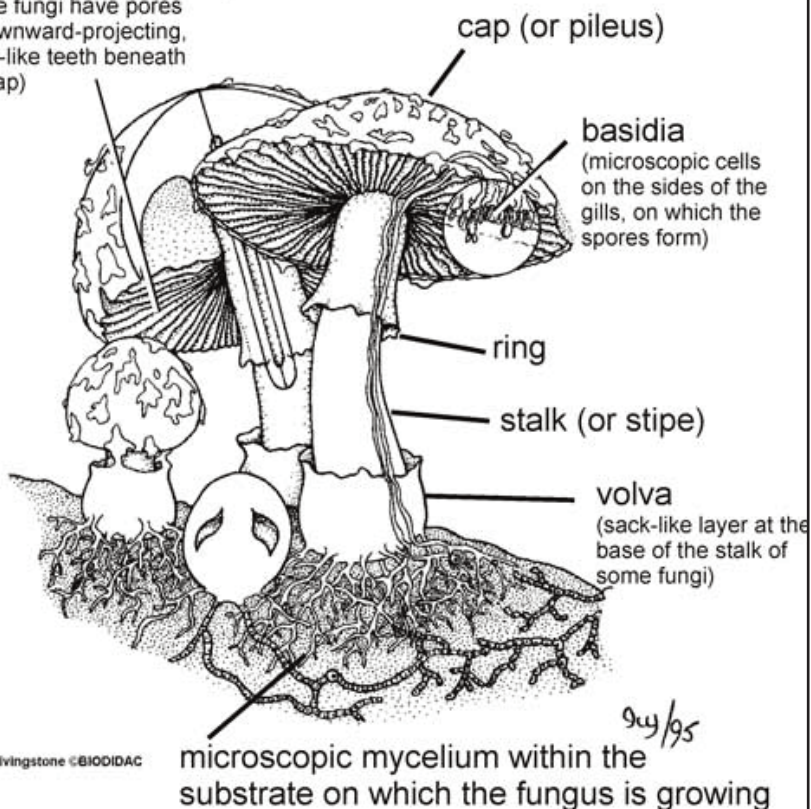


Autumn is the time for one of Nature's great spectacles at Wildwood - the annual appearance of thousands of different fungi, from huge glossy brown boletes in the beaver woodland to dense clusters of threadlike 'bonnets' on old rotting tree stumps. Use this simple ID guide to help spot some of these elusive autumn visitors which appear in our woods from September until the first frosts.

What is a Fungus?

gills underneath cap

(some fungi have pores or downward-projecting, spine-like teeth beneath the cap)



Livingstone ©BIODIDAC

Some fungi have gills underneath; others look like sponges. Fungi are not plants but belong to a unique group which stands completely on its own (fungus diagram left).



Where do I look?

Fungi like damp places, so look carefully as you walk around our woods. Many are shades of brown, but others are white, yellow, orange, red, blue, purple...in fact all colours.

Check the dead leaves carpeting the woodland floor and pay special attention to any dead wood - rotting tree stumps and log piles.



All the fungi pictured overleaf grow within 1m of the woodland paths, so will be easy to spot. If you see anything unusual, please make a note of its location and tell us so we can photograph it and add it to next year's fungi spotting trail! Thank you.

Please don't pick or destroy any fungi - a few are poisonous to humans but the majority, as well as beautiful for everyone to look at, are important autumn foods for our wild squirrels, mice and voles.



Spot Your Fungus!



There are more than 3,000 species of the larger, more easy to see fungi in Britain - we've only space here for nine of them. Experts identify them by their appearance, smell, texture, spores, habitat and growing season. See how many you can find today and tick the boxes below when you are lucky enough to spot one.



Pestle Puffball

Spores are puffed out through a small hole in top when it rains.



Clouded Agaric

Large mushroom with white/grey cap, usually in groups.



Sulphur Tuft

Looks like bright yellow fried eggs in clumps on rotting wood.



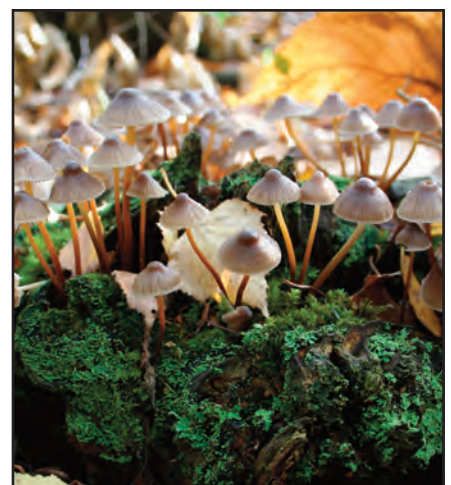
Candlesnuff

Looks like a snuffed candle wick - black, grey and white.



Lilac Bonnet

Delicate small pink mushroom growing among dead leaves.



Bonnets

Tiny clusters of waving cone-shaped hats on rotting wood.



Tawny Funnelcap

Glossy brown fungus with deep funnel in the centre.



Fly Agaric (Fairy Toadstool)

Bright red cap with white spots - near silver birch trees.



Bolete

Brown mushroom with spongy cap up to 12cm tall - by beavers.