

# Distinctive Fungi Spotter Sheet

Many species of fungi are hard to identify in the field. Sometimes fungi can only be identified to Genus level, which is a taxonomic category in which species with similar characteristics are grouped. Sometimes fungi can be narrowed down further to the next taxonomic category – Family level. Some species will need microscopy or chemical testing to establish either Genus, Family or Species.

However there are some species of fungi which are very distinctive, due to shape, colour, smell or texture. These can be easily identified in the field and some examples have been included in this spotter sheet.

## Parasol (*Macrolepiota procera*)

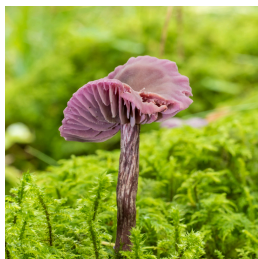


Cap: Spherical then flattens with small central, raised bump. Pale buff with dark scales. Diameter up to 20cm

Stem: Long, white with scaly, zig-zag pattern. Large ring present which can be moved up and down.

Habitat: Woodland clearings, grasslands and fields.

## Amethyst Deceiver (*Laccaria amethystina*)



Cap: Convex then flattens with depressed centre. May deform with age. Cap and gills deep purple when young and wet, pale brown when old and dry. Diameter 2-7cm

Habitat: Coniferous and deciduous woodland, in leaf litter

## Wood Cauliflower (*Sparassia crispa*)



Body: Creamy-white with leaf-like structures which are curled/wavy. Becomes brown and tougher with age. 10-25cm tall and up to 40cm across.

Habitat: Base of conifer trees

## Sulphur Tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

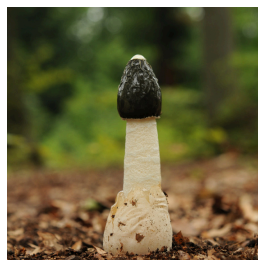


Cap: Sulphur yellow/tan. Convex. Gills are sulphur yellow/olive green. Diameter 2-7cm.

Sulphur tufts are bioluminescent and glow in UV light

Habitat: Deadwood (deciduous or conifers) in clumps

## Common Stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*)



Body: Phallic looking with thick white stem. Cap is pitted and bell shaped with a brown slimy coating which is soon eaten. Grows from a white ball/egg. 15-25cm tall.

Smells of rotting meat.

Habitat: Rotting wood in woodlands and gardens.

## Plums and Custard (*Tricholomopsis rutilans*)



Cap: Bright yellow with tiny purple/pink scales. Bright yellow gills. Convex and then flattens. Diameter 4-12cm

Habitat: Conifer stumps

## Yellow Fieldcap (*Bolbitius titubans*)



Cap: Egg-shaped, sticky and yellow, expanding as it ages. Colour fades with age. Diameter is 1-4cm. Very short fruiting cycle.

Gills: Yellow and turn rusty brown with age.

Habitat: Grassland, roadside verges, old manure, rotting hay, compost.

## Red Cage Fungus (*Clathrus ruber*)



Body: Grows from a white ball/egg. Forms a large, globe-shaped red lattice. 5-15cm across

Smells of rotting meat.

Habitat: Parks and gardens, near compost heaps or woodchip.

## Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*)



Cap: Honey/brown coloured. Darker in middle. Conical and flattens with age. Wavy edges. Scales on young caps. Pale yellow stem ring. Diameter 5-12cm

Habitat: Grows at base of trees, on stumps and roots in clumps