

Bracket and Other Tree-associated Fungi Spotter Sheet

Bracket fungi are tough and durable, with a woody/leathery feel and often look like a shelf growing on a tree. They can be fairly large and grow slowly over a period of time. Some species have new layers added to the bracket each year. Spores are distributed from pores and tubes on the underside of the bracket.

Lots of other species are associated with trees but don't grow in a classic 'bracket' shape. All the species on this spotter sheet can be found on dead and living trees, on the trunks or branches. Key features to look for include colour and texture of the fungi, overall shape and smell of the specimen. Here are some of the commoner bracket and tree-associated fungi found in Guernsey.

Beefsteak Fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*)



Bracket: Red/pink/brown. Liver-shaped semicircle with an inflated edge when young. Looks like raw meat. Also exudes a blood-like liquid in drops. Sticky and moist to touch. 6-20cm.

Pores: Off-white/cream but reddish-brown as ages. Bruises red/brown.

Artist Bracket (*Ganoderma applanatum*)



Bracket: Tiered groups. Tough and woody. Brown top and off-white edge. 10-60cm.

Pores: White when young and turns brown with age. Underside can be scratched to produce brown marks.

Chicken of the Woods (*Polyporus sulphureus*)



Bracket: Several, thick overlapping brackets. Sulphur coloured fading to pale yellow. Fan shaped with wavy edge. Velvety. Soft and spongy when young. 10-40cm

Pores: White/pale yellow.

Birch Polypore (*Fomitopsis betulina*)



Bracket: Round or hoof-shaped. Smooth with round edge. Pale brown on top and white underneath.

Pores: Very fine white pores. Buff when mature

Only grows on Birch trees.

King Alfred's Cakes (*Daldinia concentrica*)



Body: Small, round black blobs. Dull pinkish-brown when young. Shiny and black with a 'burnt' appearance when older. Outer shell cracks easily. Looks like coal. 2-10cm

Inside: Circles of grey and black. Spores released from pores on outer surface.

Orange Porecap/Orange Ping Pong (*Favolaschia claudopus*)



Cap: Convex and kidney shaped. Smooth when young. Bright orange turning browner as it dries. 0.5-2cm

Pores: Large. Bright orange.

Photo credit
Anneka Saunders

Turkeytail (*Trametes versicolor*)



Bracket: Tiered layers. Semi-circular with wavy edges. Clear, circular rings of colour. Can be brown, yellow, grey, purple, green and black. Edge is always cream or white. 4-10cm

Pores: White.

Dryad's Saddle (*Cerioporus squamosus*)



Bracket: Large. Circular or fan shaped. Yellow/cream with dark brown scales. 10-60cm

Pores: White but turn cream as the fungi ages.

Smells of watermelon.

Hoof Fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)



Bracket: Thick, ridged hoof-shaped. Grey/brown/black. Yellow-brown or cream edge. 10-60cm.

Pores: Surface grey-brown, inside pores cream.