

**Interactive KEY to all mushrooms described or referenced in Edition #2 of *Field Guide to Wild Mushrooms of Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic*.**

Species fully described in the Field Guide are denoted by bold type: “**p.**” Followed by the species’ page number in the Guide.

Species merely referenced are not given Guide page numbers.

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**I MUSHROOMS WITH GILLS UNDERNEATH THE CAP.**

**II MUSHROOMS WITHOUT GILLS:**

***MUSHROOMS WITH GILLS* - Spore print color:**

**BLACK spore print.**

**BROWN including dark tan and rusty tints spore print.**

**GREEN spore print.**

**PINK spore print.**

**PURPLE spore print, including purplish-brown and purplish-black .**

**WHITE spore print, including pale pastel shades of pink, lavender, yellow, etc.**

***Gilled mushrooms with BLACK spore prints.***

**1 Mushroom soon self-digests into a black goop. - 2**

**1 Does not soon digest into black goop. - 5**

**2 Grows on the ground in lawns and grassy places. - 3**

**2 Grows on dead wood. - 4**

**3 Gray-brown cap, the size and shape of hen's eggs. With distinct, fine radial lines near edge of cap. Grows in clusters in grassy places. - *Coprinus atramentarius* **p.224****

**3 Up to 3” tall, oblong, shaggy, white caps without distinct grooves. Grows in groups, late in the season, mainly October. - *Coprinus comatus* **p.183****

4 Grows on stumps of broad leaved trees. Resembles *Coprinus comatus*, but with a smaller cap that shows radial lines, and few scales that soon flake off. Rare. - *Coprinus insignis*

4 Grows in large clusters, mainly on dead ash and elm. Cap with flaking patches, exposing a bald surface. Often has a strong odor. - *Coprinus variegatus* **p.24** (*C. quadrifidus*).

5 Cap small, not over 3/8" across. Grows in dense masses on decaying wood. Cap brownish-gray, bell-shaped, and grooved. Skinny stem. - *Coprinus disseminatus*

5 Cap 1" to 3" wide. Gills: run strongly down the stem; broad, thick and widely spaced; dull yellow-orange when young, becoming darker when older. - *Chroogomphus vinicolor* **p.182** (*Gomphidius vinicolor*)

5 Cap 4" across or wider. - [6](#)

6 Cap up to 15" across. Purple-brown cap. White stem with two-layered rough and torn ring. Grows in woodchip mulch. Most frequent in spring. - *Stropharia rugosoannulata* **p.26**

6 Cap not over 4" across. Hairy stem. - [7](#)

7 Fragile, hairy, brownish cap, with a thin fringe along the edge. Gills deep brown, and spotted. - *Psathyrella velutina* **p.56** (*Lacrymaria velutina*, *Hyohikima velutinus*, *Psathyrella lacrymabunda*)

7 Similar to *Psathyrella velutina*, but cap whiter, and covered with dark fuzzy patches. - *Psathyrella maculata*

7 Similar to *Psathyrella velutina*, but cap is more orange-colored. - *Psathyrella rigidipes*

### ***Gilled mushrooms with BROWN spore prints (including dark tan, chocolate, and rusty tints).***

1 Grows on ground in grassy places. Spores chocolate-brown to dark brown - [2](#)

1 Gills attached to stem. Spores rusty or reddish-brown to cinnamon-brown - [6](#)

2 Little brown mushroom with a long, skinny, ring-free stem. Stem not over 1/4" thick. Cap often 2-toned, and up to 1 1/4" wide. Gills more or less attached to the stem: *Panaeolus foenicicii* **p.37** (*Psilocybe foenicicii* )

2 Bigger mushroom; not very tall & skinny. White to pale tan cap and stem - [3](#)

**3** Stem without a ring. Soon dissolves into a dark goop. Grows in clumps and patches at the base of trees and dead stumps, and anywhere from buried wood. Tan, fragile, small egg-shaped cap, at first covered with little particles that seem to glisten in the sun. Appears feearly April and on - *Coprinellus micaceus* **p.34** (*Coprinus micaceus*)

**3** Stem with a ring - [4](#)

**4** Gills not attached to the stem. White cap to grayish-brown; surface typically not cracking with age - [5](#)

**4** Gills attached to the stem. White to whitish-tan, smooth cap surface, often cracking in age. Often grows with wood chips - *Agrocybe dura* **p.30** (*A. molesta*, *Pholiota vermiflua*, *P. dura*, *P. praecox*)

**5** White cap. Gills pink when young, becoming brown. Stem with a simple ring, Cap up to 4" across; smooth - *Agaricus campestris* **p.55**

**5** White cap. Gills whitish when young, not pink; becoming brown. Stem with a large, elaborate ring that shows a toothed gear pattern as the cap expands. Cap can be huge, up to over 12" wide. Grows in grassy places - *Agaricus arvensis*

**p.58** (*Psalliota arvensis*)

**5** Cap grayish-brown, Stem with wide ring that is flared at top and bottom. Grows in the spring in grass, hard-packed soil, and walkways. - *Agaricus bitorquis* **p.28** (*A. rodmanii*, *A. edulis*, *Psalliota rodmanii*)

**6** Small, delicate, cone shaped whitish caps with a skinny long stem. Grows abundantly in lawns. Usually gone by noon. *Conocybe apala* **p.34** (*C. albiooes*, *C. lactea*)

**6** Grows on the ground - [7](#)

**6** Grows on wood in clusters. Stem with a ring - [11](#)

**7** Little brown mushroom with a long, skinny stem with a large ring half way down the stem. Stem 1/16" or less thick. Cap not over 1" wide. Grows in grassy places, often with wood chips. - *Conocybe filaris*

**7** Fragile, slimy, yellow cap with lines running from the center to the edge. Very fragile yellow stem that collapses as the day progresses. - *Bolbitius titubans* **p.32** (*B. Vitellinus*)

**7** Bigger mushrooms; not very tall and skinny. Show a cobbwebby veil between stem and cap when young. Usually grow under oak and other hardwoods, but sometimes under conifer trees - [8](#)

**8** With bright reddish scales or bright reddish bands. Dry - [9](#)

**10** Uniform rusty color. Dry. Rare. - *Cortinarius orellanus*  
**10** Slimy, purplish cap that develops yellow dots near the center.  
Purplish gills that become rusty colored. - *Cortinarius iodes* **p.64**

**11** Cap smooth, small; rarely over 2 ½" wide. Brownish cap may fade with age. Stem with a vague ring. Often grows in small clusters. - *Galerina marginata* p.187 (*G. Autumnalis*, *Pholiota autumnallis*)  
**11** Cap distinctly scaly, up to 5" wide - [12](#)

**12** Cap dry, often with a garlicky odor. Gills become greenish with age - *Pholiota squarrossa* **p.226**  
**12** Cap sticky, without a garlicky odor. Gills do not become greenish with age - *Pholiota squarrossoides*

### ***Gilled mushrooms with a GREEN spore print***

Cap up to 10" across; covered with brownish scales. Gills unattached to stem, becoming greenish. Stem with a swollen base, and a white ring that is greenish to brownish on the underside edge. Grows in lawns and meadows. - *Chlorophyllum molybdites*

### ***Gilled mushrooms with PINK spore prints***

All with no ring on the stem.

**1** Gills attached to the stem, and run down it. Grows on the ground. Grayish-brown cap. Pinkish gills. White stem. Usually found along with whitish to pinkish irregular roundish forms. - *Entoloma abortivum* **p.66** (*Clitopilus abortivus*)

**1** Gills not attached to the stem. Grows on rotting wood. Large cap, up to about 5" wide. Whitish stem. Gills white, becoming salmon-pink in age. - [2](#)

**2** Smooth, light brown to grayish-brown cap. - *Pluteus cervinus* **p.39** (*P. atricapillus*)

**2** Dark brown, wrinkled cap. - *Pluteus magnus*

**Gilled mushrooms with PURPLE spore prints (including purplish-brown and purplish-black)** All with gills attached to the stem.

- 1 Grows on rotting wood, in clusters. Smooth, dome shaped cap. - [2](#)
- 1 Grows on the ground in groups. Fragile mushroom with a thin, pale to dark honey-yellow cap that shows delicate tissue patches hanging from the edge when young. Thin, hollow, brittle, delicate stem without a ring. Often grows around rotting stumps. - *Psathyrella candolleana*  
**p.41** (*Hypholoma incertum*)
- 2 Gills with greenish-yellow tint. Yellow cap. Bitter taste. Grows mainly on conifer, rarely hardwood. - *Naematoloma fasciculare*
- 2 Gills without greenish-yellow tint. Cap not yellow. - [3](#)
- 3 Cap brick-red. Gills whitish, turning grayish-purple. On hardwood. - *Naematoloma sublateritium* **p.228** (*Hypholoma perplexum*, *H. sublateritium*, *Naematoloma sublateritium*)
- 3 Cap orange. Gills grayish-brown, becoming purple-brown. Grows on conifer wood. - *Naematoloma capnoides*
- 3 Cap brick-red. Gills whitish, turning grayish-purple. On hardwood. - *Naematoloma sublateritium* **p.228** (*Hypholoma perplexum*, *H. sublateritium*, *Naematoloma sublateritium*)
- 3 Cap orange. Gills grayish-brown, becoming purple-brown. Grows on conifer wood. - *Naematoloma capnoides*

**Gilled mushrooms with WHITE spore prints (including pale pastel shades of pink, lavender, yellow, etc.)**

- 1 Ground-growing mushrooms that drip or ooze a milky-white, or colored, or clear watery juice. Caps over 2" across. - [2](#)
- 1 Mushroom does not ooze milk or juice. - [7](#)
- 2 Milk white, unchanging color. - [3](#)
- 2 Milk colored; milk and/or bruised tissue becoming greenish. - [6](#)
- 3 Milk tastes peppery-hot. Large white cap. - [4](#)
- 3 Milk white, abundant, and tastes mild. Cap brown. - [5](#)
- 4 Cap entirely covered with fuzz. - *Lactifluus subvellereus*
- 4 Only the cap edge fuzzy. - *Lactifluus deceptivus*
- 4 Cap smooth, and without fuzz. Gills very close. - *Lactifluus piperatus*  
**p.104** (*Lactarius piperatus*)

5 Smooth, orange-brown cap and stem. Gills widely spaced, do not become brown when bruised. - *Lactifluus hygrophoroides* **p.103**  
5 Gills close, dark yellowish to brownish. Turn brown when bruised. Cap wrinkled. - *Lactifluus corrugis* **p.101** (*Lactarius corrugis*)  
5 Gills close, Whitish. Become brown when bruised Cap smooth. With a fishy odor. - *Lactifluus volemus* **p.106** (*Lactarius volemus*)

6 Milk at first bright blue. - *Lactarius indigo* **p.98**  
6 Milk at first burgundy-red. - *Lactarius subpurpureus* **p.100**  
6 Milk at first dark wine-brown. - *Lactarius paradoxus*  
6 Milk at first yellowish-brown; scanty, juicy. Cap blue through green to yellowish or brownish. Interior flesh blue. Gills become green from bruising and age. Grows under conifers. - *Lactarius chelidonium* **p.95**  
6 Milk at first bright orange, becoming green. Mushroom orange, developing green tints with age. - *Lactarius deliciosus* **p.97**

7 Stem with a ring. - [8](#)  
7 Stem without a ring. - [21](#)

8 Grows on wood. Cap over 1" across. Stem with a cottony ring. Gills attached to the stem, and run down it. Cap honey-yellow. Grows in clusters on hardwood trees in autumn. Stem bases are tapered to points. - *Armillaria mellea* **p.191** (*Armillariella mellea*)  
8 Dark brown, scaly cap. Gills attached to the stem, and run down it. Conspicuous whitish ring with brown tint on the edge or underside. Grows in clusters, mainly on conifer. - *Armillaria solidipes* **p.193** (*A. ostoyae*)  
8 Grows on the ground. - [9](#)

9 Gills with a notch or depression at the stem. Cap orange, scaly, and sticky. White gills. Stem orange, with a ring, and scaly, with a white zone at the top. Mushroom has an unpleasant odor of rancid bread dough. - *Tricholoma zelleri*  
9 Gills attached to stem. - [10](#)  
9 Gills not attached to stem. - [11](#)

**10** Usually with a disgusting odor, but may also be sweet-smelling. Cap with brownish scales. Stem white above the ring, but with brownish scales below. Gills white, developing brownish spots. - *Tricholoma caligatum* **p.204** (*Armillaria caligata*)

**10** Very similar to *Tricholoma caligatum*, but all white, and stains brown where bruised. With a pleasant (to most people), but peculiar spicy odor. - *Armillaria ponderosa*

**10** Brownish, finely hairy cap. Vague yellowish ring on a stem that's swollen at the base. Grows in the fall, mainly on the ground on or near hardwood stumps and trees, singly or in loose clusters. - *Armillaria gallica* **p.189**

**11** Stem base ornamented with a cup, scales, sheath, wrapper, etc. - [12](#)

**11** Stem base straight or swollen, smooth and plain, without ornamentation. Cap without distinct warts or thick cottony patches, but may not be smooth. Ring can be moved up and down on the stem. - [48](#)

**11** White, ringed, scallion-shaped stem; yellowish when handled or broken. Powdery, white cap with deep lines running from center to edge. Grows in clusters on wood chips and flower pots. - *Leucocoprinus cepaestipes* **p.110**

**12** Stem with a scaly bulb at the base. White gills. - [14](#)

**12** Stem base set in a fleshy cup that's often hidden underground. - [17](#)

**12** Base of stem surrounded with a delicate, tissue paper-like sheath, or loose white sack that may be underground. Radial lines along edge of cap. - [19](#)

**12** Stem base with a peculiar bulb that has a different decoration than above. Cap brownish with white to pale warts. - [20](#)

**14** Base of stem with reddish stains. - [15](#)

**14** Base of white stem without reddish stains. - [16](#)

**15** Cap reddish with tan, flaky warts. White gills with reddish stains. - *Amanita rubescens* **p.73** (*A. amerirubescens*)

**15** Cap golden yellow to brownish-yellow with yellowish warts. - *Amanita flavorubescens*

**16** Cap yellow to orange, dotted with large, white cottage cheese-like spots. White gills and stem. - *Amanita muscaria* **p.71**

**16** Yellow-orange cap with bright yellow to orange warts. - *Amanita flavoconia*

**16** Bright orange cap with yellow to cream cottony patches. Bulb at base of stem has yellowish cottony patches. - *Amanita frostiana*.

- 17 Cap pale greenish; gills white. - *Amanita phalloides*  
17 Cap bright red to orange. Gills yellow to orange-yellow. - *Amanita jacksonii* p.69 (*A. hemibapha*, *A. umbonata*)  
17 Entirely white mushroom. - [18](#)
- 18 Stem with a rough cottony surface. - *Amanita virosa*  
18 Stem smooth. - *Amanita verna*  
18 Very similar to *A. verna*, but typically smaller. - *Amanita bisporigera* p.67
- 19 Cap gray to grayish-brown. - *Amanita vaginata* p.75 (*A. amerivaginata*, *Amanitopsis vaginata*, *Vaginata plumbea*)  
19 Cap reddish-brown to tan. - *Amanita fulva*  
19 Cap bright red to reddish orange, covered with dull yellowish warts, gills pale yellow, stem pale yellow with a slight swelling at the base. - *Amanita parcivolvata*
- 20 Base of stem has a bulb that has a band of thin cottony tissue around the top. - *Amanita pantherina*  
20 Base of stem has a bulb with a vertical split. Base bruises reddish-brown. - *Amanita brunnescens*
- 21 Grows on wood. - [22](#)  
21 Grows on the ground. - [26](#)  
21 Parasitic on other mushrooms. - [57](#)
- 22 Mushroom fan-shaped, with stem off to the side. - [23](#)  
22 Mushroom with a roundish cap and a more or less central stem. - 25
- 23 Cap rarely over 1/2" across; whitish-tan, tough, slightly scaly. Grows in rows and clusters on deciduous stumps and logs. Glows in the dark. - *Panellus stypticus* p.234 (*Panus stypticus*)  
23 Cap over 1/2" across. - [24](#)
- 24 Cap white to grayish or brownish, up to 8" across. Grows on hardwood stumps and logs. Spore print often pale lavender. - *Pleurotus ostreatus* p.235  
24 Cap white, not up to 8" across. Grows on conifer stumps and logs. Spore print white to creamy-yellowish. - *Pleurotus porrigens*  
24 Cap white to light pinkish-gray or pale tan. Grows on quaking aspen. - *Pleurotus populinus*  
24 Cap dull green or yellowish-green, often with brown, gray or purple tones. Sticky. Spore print light yellowish. Appears very late in the year. P.237 *Sarcomyxa serotina* (*Panellus serotinus*)

25 Cap not over 1” across (average about 1/2” across). Yellow-rusty caps with a deep pit in the center. Gills run down the stem. Very skinny dark brown stem, fuzzy at the base. Grows densely on old conifer wood. - *Xerampalina campanella* **p.239** (*Omphalia campanella*, *Omphalopsis campenella*)

25 Cap averages over 2” across. - [51](#)

26 Underground base of stem surrounded by a delicate sheath. - [27](#)

26 Base of stem not surrounded by a sheath. - [28](#)

27 Cap reddish with tan, flaky warts. White gills with reddish stains. - *Amanita rubescens* p.64

27 Cap golden yellow to brownish-yellow with yellowish warts. - *Amanita flavorubescens*

28 Gills without a notch or depressed groove at the stem. - [29](#)

28 Gills with a notch or depressed groove at the stem. - [44](#)

28 Bright red-orange, moldy-looking, gnarly, distorted, mushroom form. Gills are distorted, blunted, and barely formed. - *Hypomyces lactifluorum* **p.144**

29 Small, translucent, ivory white, sticky caps. Widely spaced, white, waxy gills. Grows on the ground in mixed woods. - *Cuphophyllus virgineus* **p.84** (*Camarophyllus niveus*, *Camerophyllus virgineus*, *Hygrocybe virginea*, *Hygrophorus borealis*, *H. nivea*, *H. niveus*, *H. virgineus*)

29 Gills run down the stem. Cap typically over 2” across. - [34](#)

29 Gills attached, but don't run down the stem. - [36](#)

34 Cap brownish. White gills run down the stem deeply, giving the mushroom a vase shape. Stem grayish-brown, club-shaped. Grows under conifers. - *Clitocybe clavipes* **p.77** (*Clitocybe clavipes*)

34 Similar to *Clitocybe clavipes*, but cap is paler, and grows under hardwoods. - *Clitocybe subclavipes*

34 Thin, dull pinkish to pale pinkish-tan, deeply sunken, funnel-shaped cap. White gills run deeply down the pale stem. Stem narrow. Grows under hardwood trees. - *Infundibulicybe gibba* **p.80** (*Clitocybe gibba*, *C. infundibuliformis*)

34 Cap finely velvety; orange, often browner at the center. Gills orange, repeatedly forked. - *Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca* **p.87** (*Clitocybe auriantica*, *Cantharellus aurantiacus*)

34 Cap slimy, especially in wet weather. Gills feel waxy. - 35

36 Cap typically over 2” across. - [37](#)

36 Cap usually under 2” across. Narrow stem. - [53](#)

37 Mushroom with a distinctive odor. - [39](#)

37 Mushroom without a distinct odor. - [41](#)

39 Flesh tough. Strong, fishy, unpleasant odor. Cap up to 7" across; white, becoming reddish-brown with age. White gills bruise rusty-brown. - *Russula compacta* **p.120**

39 Skunky odor. A Western mushroom that is very rare in the East. - *Clitocybe nebularis*

Greenish cap with white gills, white stem, and strong liquorice or anise odor. Grows under various trees. - *Clitocybe odora* **p.82**

39 Fragile and brittle gills. - 4040 Odor of almonds or maraschino cherries, yet unpleasant. Cap yellow to dull yellow-brown. - *Russula laurocerasi* **p.123** (*Russula foetens*)

40 Oily, rancid odor. Cap dull brownish-rusty to honey-colored, - *Russula foetens*

40 Peculiar foul odor. Cap pale orangish-brown or pale yellowish-brown. - *Russula subfoetens*

40 Sickly sweet odor. Cap dull yellow to yellowish or brownish-yellow. - *Russula fragrantissima*

41 Fragile and brittle gills and stem. Cap with green tints. - [42](#)

41 Mushroom not fragile and brittle. - [43](#)

42 Cap surface with moldy green-looking patches. - *Russula virescens* **p.126**

42 Cap with moldy-looking green, yellow, and orange patches. - *Russula crustosa* **p.121**

42 Cap with mottled, but not moldy-looking, with dull tone of green, purple, pink, or yellow, or a mixture of these. - *Russula variata* **p.124**

43 Purple-brown cap. Widely spaced, distinctly purple gills. Grows mainly under oak trees, - *Laccaria ochropurpurea* **p.94**

43 Similar to *Laccaria ochropurpurea*, but grows in sandy dunes. - *Laccaria trullisata*

43 All violet mushroom with violet mycelial fuzz at the base of a swollen stem. Dull white or pinkish white spore print. - *Lepista nuda* **p.232** (*Lepista nuda*, *Rhodopaxillus nudus*, *Tricholoma personatum*)

43 Mushroom without purple tints. Cap smooth, buttery feeling; reddish-brown, fading to cinnamon color with age. Gills white, edges finely jagged. Grows under pines. - *Collybia butyracea*

44 Cap gray (Rarely with yellow shades); with dark radial, silky streaks. White stem and gills with yellowish tint. - *Tricholoma portentosum* **p.167**

44 Cap orange, scaly, and sticky. White gills. Stem orange, scaly with a white zone at the top. Mushroom has an unpleasant odor of rancid bread dough. - *Tricholoma aurantium* **p.203** (*Armillaria aurianta*)

44 Cap with some shade of yellow. - [45](#)

44 Cap dark grayish; not smooth. Grows under pines. - [46](#)

44 Long skinny stem (2" to 8" long; 1/8" to 3/8" thick), with a long taproot-like extension underground. Brownish, slightly sticky cap. - [52](#)

45 Cap bright yellow, darker near the center, but without dark scales; sticky in damp weather. Gills lemon-yellow. Stem yellowish-white. - *Tricholoma flavovirens* **p.206** (*Tricholoma equestre*)

45 Yellowish cap with dark, scaly streaks at the center. Gills pale-yellowish. Stem white. Smells like bread dough. - *Tricholoma sejunctum*

45 With a disgusting petroleum odor of tar. Cap and gills sulphur-yellow. - *Tricholoma sulphureum*

45 Cap light yellow with darker yellowish scales. Gills white, without yellow tint. - *Tricholoma leucophyllum*

46 Cap over 2" and up to 6" across; covered with small, regularly scattered brown scales. Odor of bread dough. - *Tricholoma pardinum*

46 Cap rarely over 2" across; covered with fine, dark fur. - [47](#)

47 Shows a slight cobwebby veil between the edge of the cap and stem when very young. - *Tricholoma myomyces* **p.207**

47 Without a cobwebby veil when young. - *Tricholoma terreum*

48 Flesh develops colored stain when bruised. - [49](#)

48 Flesh does not stain color when bruised. - [50](#)

49 Flesh stains reddish-orange when bruised, and becomes reddish with age. Cap white with reddish scales. - *Leucoagaricus americanus* **p.108** (*Lepiota americana*)

49 Flesh stains saffron-yellow when bruised. Cap pinkish to brownish, covered with coarse, brown-tipped scales. - *Macrolepiota rachodes*

50 Cap smooth and white. - *Leucoagaricus leucothites* **p.200** (*Lepiota naucina*, *Lepiota naucinoides*, *Leucoagaricus naucinoides*, *Leucoagaricus naucinus*)

50 Cap white, with brown scales. Large, umbrella-shaped mushroom with a long, thin stem. - *Macrolepiota procera* **p.112** (*Lepiota procera*)

50 Cap powdery-white. Scallion-shaped stem. *Leucocoprinus cepaestipes* **p.110** (*Lepiota cepaestipes*)

**51** Cap dull brown to cinnamon-brown with darker brown scales. Stem bases are narrowed. Grows in clusters at the base of trees in late summer and fall. - *Armillaria tabescens*

**51** Big, bright orange caps. Grows in large, dense clusters on or at the base of hardwood trees and stumps. Gills glow in the dark. - *Omphalotus illudens* **p.117** (*Clitocybe illudens*, *Omphalotus olearius*)

**51** Velvety, brownish cap. Velvety, dark brown stem. Grows on conifer wood in small clusters. - *Tapinella atrotomentosa* **p.119** (*Paxillus atrotomentosus*)

**51** Cap streaky grayish-brown, up to 5" across. Base of stem often with white cords. Gills white, very broad and very widely spaced. Often with anise odor. Grows on or around rotting wood. - *Megacollybia rodmanii* **p.114** (*Collybia platyphylla*, *Megacollybia platyphylla*, *Oudemansiella platyphylla*, *Tricholoma platyphylla*, *Tricholomopsis platyphylla*)

**51** Small, slimy, orange cap. Stem smooth, pale yellow to orange-brown, developing a dark velvety surface with age. Grows in clusters, often from a single base, mainly on elm. Most common in colder months. - *Flammulina velutipes* **p.230** (*Collybia velutipes*)

**51** Small, drab gray to drab brown conical or bell-shaped cap. Thin, delicate stem. Grows in clusters on rotting wood. - [58](#)

**51** Large, whitish to cream-tinted mushroom with a central or somewhat off-center, fat, smooth stem. Grows singly, or in clusters of two or three. Mainly on elm trees, high and usually out of reach. - *Hypsizygus ulmarius* **p.199** (*Pleurotus ulmarius*)

**52** Stem smooth. - *Hymenopellis radicata* **p.89** (*Collybia radicata*, *Oudemansiella radicata*, *Xerula radicata*)

**52** Stem scaly. - *Xerula furfuracea*

**52** Odor of carrots. - *Xerula megalospora*

**52** Stem becomes rusty-tinted when bruised. - *Xerula rubrobrunescens*

**53** Gills not yellow. Not particularly waxy-looking or waxy-feeling. - [54](#)

**53** Translucent, waxy-looking mushroom. Gills yellow to yellowish, with a waxy feel. - [55](#)

**54** Typically grows in carpets and clusters in wood chips. Yellow-brown cap. White, crowded gills. - *Gymnopus dryophilus* **p.42**  
(*Collybia dryophila*)

**54** Typically grows in arcs and circles in lawns and grassy places. Cap whitish-tan, with a knob in the center. White, widely spaced gills. Stem thin, firm, and very tough when mature. Pleasant spicy odor. -  
*Marasmius oreades* **p.44**

**54** Grows in grass, sometimes in arcs. Cap whitish-tan, without a central knob. Gills crowded. Odor not spicy, but somewhat like bread dough. - *Clitocybe dealbata*.

**54** Typically grows singly or scattered under trees, but usually not in lawns and wood chips. Cap pale red to pale pinkish-red when moist; pale rusty to tan when dry. Pale pinkish-tan gills. - *Laccaria laccata*  
**p.92**

**54** Similar to *L. laccata*, but entirely purple.- *Laccaria amethystina*  
**p.91** (*Laccaria amethystea*)

**55** Moist, bright yellow-orange to orange cap. Gills bright yellow (sometimes bright orange). - *Humidictus marginata* var. *concolor* **p.85**  
(*Hygrophorus marginatus* var. *concolor*)

**55** Scarlet to reddish-orange cap that fades to orangish-yellow with age. - *Hygrophorus miniatus*

**55** Slimy, bright yellow to orangish-yellow cap. Dry, yellow stem. - *Hygrophorus flavescens*

**55** Cap and stem slimy. Deep lemon-yellow to orange-yellow cap. - *Hygrophorus chlorophanus*

**56** Parasitic on various *Lactarius* and *Russula* species. Gills not distorted. Roundish, potato-like tuber at base of stem. - *Collybia tuberosa*

**56** Parasitic on blacking *Russula* species. Gills distorted. - [57](#)

**57** Cap white, up to 3/4" across; covered with white spores. - *Asterophora lycoperdoides* **p.79** (*Nyctalis asterophora*)

**57** Similar to *Asterophora lycoperdoides*, but cap not covered with white spores. - *Asterophora parasitica*

**58** Cap with lines that duplicate the gill pattern beneath. White gills that become pinkish, without pink spots, with age; and with prominent cross-veins. Stem whitish; gray at the bottom.- *Mycena galericulata*  
**p.115**

**58** Similar to *Mycena galericulata*, but develops pink spots on the gills. - *Mycena maculata*.

**58** Similar to *Mycena galericulata*, but smells alkaline. - *Mycena alkalina*

**58** Similar to *Mycena galericulata*, but has a white speckled stem that is rusty-brown at the bottom. - *Mycena inclinata*

## ***MUSHROOMS WITHOUT GILLS***

**1 Mushrooms with pores on the underside. - [2](#)**

**1 Mushroom without pores. - [20](#)**

**2** Soft, fleshy, ground-growing mushroom with a somewhat circular cap and a central stem. - [3](#)

**2** Soft, fleshy, mushroom with a roundish cap and central stem.

Grows only on the Common Earthball. - *Pseudoboletus parasiticus* - **p.162** (*Boletus parasiticus*)

**2** Large, soft and fleshy, wood-growing mushroom; several wavy caps growing in overlapping, shelf-like or rosette form. Bright orange topside. Tough when older, - [15](#)

**2** Gray to brown, coral-like, branching clumps of flat, fan-shaped caps, growing from a single, branched stem. White, porous underside. Grows at the base of hardwood trees and stumps, mainly oak. - [16](#)

**2** Tough, firm mushroom that grows in a fan or shelf shape from stumps and logs. - [17](#)

**2** Tough, firm, leathery mushroom that grows on the ground. Somewhat central stem. Irregular cap shape. Cap smooth, yellowish to yellowish brown; sometimes bruises greenish near the edge. Pores white, becoming greenish to yellowish with age. Grows under hardwoods - *Albatrellis cristatus* - **p.175**

**2** Similar to *A. cristatus*, above. But cap yellowish, scaly. Bruises green strongly. Grows under conifers. - *Albatrellis ellisii*

3 Has at least 3 of the following (a to e) features: - [4](#)

a: Grows under conifers.

b: Sticky cap in damp weather.

c: Large pores, stretched outward from stem.

d: Stem with shallow dark dots.

e: Veil covers young pores; leaves a ring on the stem, and/or tissue on cap edge.

3 Pores not pink. Ring-free stem covered with raised, dark dots. - [10](#)

3 Mature pores pink. No ring on the stem. Taste strongly bitter. - [11](#)

3 Coarse, shaggy, gray and black, scaly cap. Pores gray, bruising red, then black. Stem dark gray, and shaggy or woolly, with a vague ring. Mushroom's exposed interior flesh becomes red, then slowly blackish. - [12](#)

3 Stem long, shaggy, and coarsely netted. Pores yellow. Stem ring-free. - [13](#)

3 Reddish-brown cap. Whitish pores that become rusty-yellow when bruised. Smooth, ring-free stem, colored like the cap. - [14](#)

3 White pores. Hard, brittle, chestnut-brown cap and stem, Hollow stem. Mushroom does not become colored when bruised. Grows on the ground in oak forests. - *Gyroporus castaneus* **p.157** (*Boletus castaneus*)

3 Purplish-brown cap. Pores almost colored like the cap. Dull brownish-purple stem densely covered with small scaly, grainy, purplish scales. Mild to slightly bitter taste raw. - *Sutorius eximius* **p.168** (*Boletus eximius*, *Leccinum eximium*, *Tylopilus eximius*)

3 Dark brown to purplish-brown to maroon cap. White pores when young that do not bruise blue. Stem colored like the cap, but often white at top and bottom. - *Xanthoconium purpureum* **p.173** (*Boletus purpureofuscus*)

3 Bright red, shiny cap. Dark red pores, instantly bruising blue. Coarse, deeply-patterned red, hollow stem. *Boletus frostii* **p.155**

4 Grows under tamarack or larch. - [5](#)

4 Grows under white pine. - [6](#)

5 Hollow stem. Hairy brown, dry cap. Large, outward stretched yellow to greenish-yellow pores.- *Suillus cavipes*

5 Bright yellow to orange-yellow, sticky cap. Bright yellow pores when young, bruising brownish. Yellowish stem with a cottony ring. - *Suillus grevilii* **p.215** (*Boletus elegans*, *Suillus elegans*)

6 Dry cap and stem; both covered with red, felt-like scales. Exposed yellow flesh becomes pinkish or brownish. Stem with a grayish ring. - *Suillus pictus* **p.166** (*Suillus spraguei*, *Boletinus pictus*)

6 Sticky cap and stem with pale reddish, streaky patches. Pores yellow; bruise reddish-brown. Stem thin, with a ring, and covered with shallow, darker dots. Exposed yellow flesh becomes purplish-brown. - *Suillus americanus* **p.214** (*Boletus americanus*)

6 Cap smooth and sticky; without reddish scales or patches. - [7](#)

7 Cap dark brown. Whitish stem with shallow dots above a white ring that is dark purplish on the underside. - *Suillus luteus* **p.217** (*Boletus luteus*)

7 White, ring-free stem. Small, white to yellowish pores. Mushroom does not change color when bruised. - [8](#)

8 Stem covered with little, pinkish to pale brownish, shallow dots. - [9](#)

8 Stem without dots. - *Suillus brevipes*

9 Cap light brown to cinnamon. - *Suillus granulatus* **p.165** (*Boletus granulatus*)

9 Cap white. - *Suillus placidus*

10 Cap brick-orange colored, slightly sticky; exposed flesh becomes wine-red, then grayish, finally black. Pores tiny, whitish, bruising olive. Stem whitish, with blackish, raised dots. Grows under aspen and pine. - *Leccinum auranticaum* **p.160** (*Boletus scaber* var. *aurantiacus*)

10 Similar to *Leccinum auranticaum*, but white pores bruise pinkish-brown. Exposed flesh becomes violet-gray to dirty brown. Grows under aspen and birch, not pine. - *Leccinum insignae*

11 Cap and stem purplish. Pores do not change color from bruising. - *Tylopilus plumbeoviolaceus* **p.170**

11 Cap purplish. Stem not purplish; becoming olive-tinted. Pores bruise brownish. - *Tylopilus rubrobrunneus*

11 Cap brown to tan. Pores sometimes bruise brownish. Stem with net-like surface pattern; swollen at the base. - *Tylopilus felleus*

12 Cap scales soft, large, and broad. - *Strobilomyces floccopus* **p.109**

12 Cap scales hard, small, and pointed. - *Strobilomyces confusus*

13 Sticky, yellow-orange cap. - *Austroboletus betula* **p.158** (*Heimioporus betula*)

13 Dry, wooly, yellow-brown cap. - *Boletellus russellii*

**14** Cap with pale yellow dots. - *Xanthoconium affine* **p.172** (*Boletus affinis*)

**14** Cap without yellow dots. - *Boletus affinis* var. *affinis* **15** Cap bright orange. Underside sulphur-yellow. - *Laetiporus sulphureus* **p.220** (*Grifola sulphureus*, *Polyporus sulphureus*)

**15** Cap bright orange. Underside sulphur-yellow. - *Laetiporus sulphureus* **p.220** (*Grifola sulphureus*, *Polyporus sulphureus*)

**15** Similar to *L. sulphureus*, but cap may be orangish-pink. Underside white. - *Laetiporus cincinnatus* **p.50** (*L. semialbinus*, *L. sulphureus* var. *Semialbinus*)

**16** Does not change color when bruised. - *Grifola frondosa* **p.218**

**16** Similar to *Grifola frondosa*, but can grow in bigger clumps. Becomes black when bruised. - *Meripilus sumstinei* **p.178** (*Polyporus giganteus*)

**16** Forms clumps of branches with somewhat circular cap, and more or less central stems. - *Grifola umbellata*

**17** Grows in large, typically overlapping clusters; thick, pale yellowish caps, covered with brown scales. Large whitish pores Stem black near the base. Prefers to grow on elm, mainly during morel season in the spring. Fleshy when young; tough when old. - *Polyporus squamosus* **p.52**

**17** Big, thick, smooth, and shiny red-varnished, corky, fan-shaped cap. Whitish underside. Grows on hemlock. - *Ganoderma tsugae*. **p.176** (*Polyporus tsugae*)

**17** Very similar to *Ganoderma tsugae*, but grows on hardwoods. - *Ganoderma lucidum*

**17** Small, thin, leathery, stem-free, shelf-like fans. Typical grows in overlapping tiers. - [18](#)

**18** Grows on hardwoods. - [19](#)

**18** Grows on conifer wood. Cap with pale, drab color bands. Violet-colored pores. - *Hirschioporus pergamenus*

**19** Displays rainbow-colored bands on the smooth top. White pores. - *Trametes versicolor* **p.242** (*Coriolis versicolor*, *Polyporus versicolor*, *Polystictus versicolor*)

**19** Top hairy, with only grayish and yellowish to brownish color bands. White pores. - *Coriolus hirsutis*

## Mushrooms without pores on the underside

**20** Grows on *Gymnopus dryophilus* as a pale yellow or cream-colored jelly-like glob. - *Syzygospora mycetophila* **p.49** (*Christiancenia mycetophila*)

**20** Grows on the ground. - [21](#)

**20** On wood. - [37](#)

**21** Has a somewhat circular cap and central stem. - [22](#)

**21** Without a somewhat circular cap. - [27](#)

**22** Feels and looks like jelly. Very slippery. Cap not over ¾" across, and shaped like a wad of chewing gum. Grows in groups and clusters. - [23](#)

**22** Wrinkled, branching lines running under the cap. - [24](#)

**22** Underside barely wrinkled. All yellow mushroom. - *Cantharellus lateritius* = *Craterellus cantherellus*

**23** All yellow. - *Leotia lubrica* **p.146**

**23** Green cap. Stem whitish to yellowish to orange. - *Leotia viscosa* **p.147**

**24** Entirely bright pinkish-red. - *Cantharellus cinnabarinus* **p.133**

**24** Entirely bright yellow - [25](#)

**24** cap brown. - [26](#)

**25** Cap up to 3" across. Fruity odor. - *Cantharellus cibarius* **p.132**

**25** Cap up to 2" across. - *Cantharellus ignicolor*

**25** Cap under 1 1/2" across. - *Cantharellus minor* **p.135**

**26** Blackish-brown, smooth cap. Lemon-yellow, hollow stem. Pale yellow-brown spore print. - *Craterellus tubaeformis* **p.241**  
(*Cantharellus infundibuliformis*, *C. tubaeformis*)

**26** Yellow-brown to dark brown cap. Orange to orangish-yellow stem. White spore print. - *Cantharellus tubaeformis*

- 27 Deep funnel-shape; thick and fleshy. - [28](#)
- 27 Trumpet-shaped, without a cap and stem. Flesh thin, flexible. Entirely black, dark gray, to dark brown. - [29](#)
- 27 Ball-shape form, no stem. - [31](#)
- 27 Hollow cap like an upside-down ice cream cone with coarsely netted with pits; attached to a hollow white or yellowish, wrinkled stem. - [34](#)
- 27 Small, bright yellow, dense clusters of fleshy, thin fingers, often growing from one base. - [36](#)
- 27 Roundish clump of pale, flat, thin, wavy ribbons. Rooted with a thin cord. *Sparassis americana* **p.151** (*S. radicata*)
- 27 Looks like orange peelings; whitish exterior. Without a stem. - *Aleuria aurantiaca* **p.127**
- 27 Similar to *A. aurantiaca*, but with a short stem. - *Aleuria rhenana*
- 27: Upright, narrow, violet, coral-like, abundantly forked branches. About fist size. - *Clavaria zollingeri* **p.136**
- 28 Orange, and coarsely scaly inside the funnel. Outside surface pale rusty-yellow. - *Turbilellus floccosus* **p.153** (*Gomphus floccosus*)
- 28 Inside brown to dark violet. Outside, some shade of violet. - *Gomphus clavatus*
- 29 Unpleasant taste. White spore print. - *Craterellus cinereus*
- 29 Fruity odor. Pleasant taste. - [30](#)
- 30 Spore print rusty-colored. - *Craterellus fallax* **p.139**
- 30 Spore print white. - *Craterellus cornucopiodes*
- 30 With blunt, forked gills. - *Cantharellus cinereus*
- 31 Smooth, thin, soft surface. Soft interior. - [32](#)
- 31 Thick and tough skin. Hard interior. Blackish spores. - [33](#)
- 32 Huge (from about 8" to possibly 30" across). Snow white when young and fresh, becoming yellowish with age. Develops light to dark brown spores when mature. - *Calvatia gigantea* **p.211** (*Lycoperdon giganteum*, (*Calvatia maxima*, *Langermanii gigantea*)
- 32 Up to 8" across. White to light brown surface. Somewhat upside-down pear-shaped. Makes dark purple spores when mature, and leaves a purple vase-shaped form that overwinters. - *Calvatia cyathiformis* **p.130**

- 33** Yellow, rough, warty hide. - *Scleroderma citrinum* **p.150**  
**33** Southern species, grows in sand dunes. Surface yellowish, with small scales. - *Scleroderma meridionale*  
**33** Skin thin when mature; yellowish, covered with brownish scales. - *Scleroderma areolatum*  
**33** Smooth-skinned when young. Yellowish. - *Scleroderma flavidum*

- 34** Brownish-yellow cap attached to the stem midway up the cap interior. - *Morchella semilibera* **p.48**  
**34** Base of cap attached to the stem. - [35](#)

- 35** Cap yellow-brown to tan. - *Morchella esculenta* **p.48**  
**35** Similar to *Morchella esculenta*, but with a very wide stem, often wide as cap. - *Morchella crassipes* **p.48**  
**35** Tan cap with black pit ridges. - *Morchella elata* **p.48**

- 36** Bright yellow to orange-yellow fingers from 1/8” to 1/2” thick. - *Clavinulopsis fusiformis* **p.138**  
**36** White, cream, to faintly yellow delicate fingers, up to 1/8” thick. - *Clavinulopsis helvola*

- 37** Brown, upside down pear -shaped form up to 2” across, no stem. Grows on dead stumps, logs and woodchips. White fibers at the base. - *Morganella pyriformis* **p.148** (*Lycoperdon pyriforme*)  
**37** Resembles a tiny bird's nest, with little egg-forms inside. Grows in dense groups on woodchips. - [38](#)  
**37** White, coral-like form, with many drooping teeth. - [39](#)  
**37** Resembles a small wad of chewing gum with a jelly-like appearance and feel. - [40](#)  
**37** Dark reddish-brown, rubbery, flattish, ear-shaped fungus. grows mainly on dead deciduous wood, especially branches. *Auricularia americana* **p.129** (*Auricularia auricula*, *A. Auricula-judae*, *Hirneola auricula*)

- 38** Cups up to 3/8” across. White interior; brownish, shaggy outside. Contains several small, flattened “eggs” with attached stick white cords. - *Crucibulum laeve* **p.141** (*Crucibulum levis*, *C. vulgare*)  
**38** Similar to *Crucibulum laeve*, but cups less than 3/8” across, and the outside paler. - *Crucibulum parvulum*  
**38** Vertical lines inside the cup, and “eggs” are dark-colored. - *Crucibulum striatus*

**39** Clump-like form, with long, downward-pointing, tooth-like spines. - *Heridium erinaceus*

**39** Delicately branching form with 3/8" or shorter teeth. - *Heridium coralloides* **p.212**

**40** Orange. Grows on dead conifer wood. - *Dacrymyces palmatus*  
**p.143**

**40** Yellow, Grows on dead hardwood. - *Tremella mesenterica*