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# Missouri Mushroom Identification Key



Identify a mushroom species  
through a series of questions

**START**



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Is it growing on  
another mushroom?



**YES**

**NO**



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Does it have gills?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is it growing  
"shelf-like" on wood?



**YES**

**NO**



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Are gills running  
down the stem and  
not easily removed?



**YES**

**NO**



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Does it have pores?



**YES**

**NO**



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Does it have a stem, and  
if so, lateral or central?



**YES/CENTRAL**

**NO/LATERAL**



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Is it covered in a  
foul-smelling slime?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is it shaped like a cup,  
saucer, bowl, etc?



**YES**

**NO**



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Does it have tiny  
"eggs" inside?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is it shaped like a ball?



**YES**

**NO**



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Does it have clearly defined,  
central cap and stem?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is cap convex, centrally depressed, or vase shaped?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is stem hollow, cap have  
pits/ridges/vertical wrinkles  
and not red/brown?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is species found in spring,  
cap lobed/brainlike, and red  
or brown?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is species found in summer  
or fall, and cap lobed or  
saddle shaped?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is species vase-shaped,  
with scales on cap, or  
multiple caps on one stem?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is species jelly-like, formless, globule, lobed or brain-like?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is species shaped like a club, stick, or coral?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is it growing on wood,  
shaped like a fan or kidney,  
or appearing like a crust?



**YES**

**NO**



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Is the stem soft or tough?



**SOFT**

**TOUGH**



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Is the pore surface  
running down the stem,  
and spore print white?



**YES**

**NO**



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Does it have spines/teeth?



**YES**

**NO**



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# Mycotrophs

Parasitic Fungus

Mycotrophs are parasites on other mushrooms and the remains of them. Sometimes the host species isn't visible, and the parasite must be identified by its physical features. Also included in this group are abnormal fruitings of fungi, such as fused caps/stems and mushrooms growing out of other mushroom caps.

