

# FUNGI

of the Mornington Peninsula



MORNINGTON  
PENINSULA  
*Shire*

# Fungi

## of the Mornington Peninsula

The Mornington Peninsula supports a diverse mix of vegetation communities and habitat types – ranging from grassy plains, woodlands, damp forests and coastal scrubs. While there is a good understanding of the types and numbers of flora and fauna species that occur on the peninsula, little is known about how many types of fungi can be found within these communities – though it is highly likely that fungi are varied and well represented.

Fungi colonise almost every terrestrial habitat. Some fungi grow in sand dunes, others in native grasslands, many appear

in garden beds and lawns, but the greatest diversity of fungus species is usually found in woodlands and forests.

This guide presents 96 of the more recognisable fungus species that grow in the range of habitats of the Mornington Peninsula.

Almost all of the fungi presented appear in autumn, although they can appear in other seasons depending on environmental conditions, and especially in response to fluctuations in rainfall and temperature.

## What are fungi?

Fungi are not plants or animals but belong to their own kingdom of organisms – the Kingdom Fungi. Unlike plants that use chlorophyll to manufacture food (known as photosynthesis), fungi are more like animals in that they secrete enzymes to break down organic matter and then absorb nutrients.

The fungus organism itself exists within soils or wood or other substrates.
















Under particular conditions, often related to an increase in moisture and decrease in temperature, the fungus will produce a sporing body such as a mushroom.

While the classic umbrella mushroom shape is familiar to many people, fungus sporing bodies are diverse and appear in many forms - such as puffballs or jellies.

## Fungus groups

Fungi can be grouped together based on aspects of their appearance, including their form, shape or structure. These groupings are known as morphogroups.

Each morphogroup in this guide is colour coded, and each species within its morphogroup is arranged alphabetically by its scientific name. There are 14 morphogroups presented in this guide, along with an additional 'invasive' section at the end.

- |  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  Agarics      |  Fungi with Pores |  Tooth fungi |  Corals               |  Jellies  |
|  Chanterelles |  Stinkhorns       |  Birdnests   |  Earthstars/Puffballs |  Cups     |
|  Discs        |  Clubs            |  Morels      |  Lichens              |  Invasive |

# How fungi feed

Fungi obtain their nutrition in different ways – these are known as trophic modes. Some are recyclers that break down organic material while others form mutual relationship with plants.

Some fungi, such as the Australian Honey Fungus and the Ghost Fungus can switch between different trophic modes.

Regardless of a their trophic mode, all of these different types of fungi are all vital to healthy, functioning ecosystems.

The trophic mode of each species presented in this guide is indicated by the letters S, M, P and Y.

Trophic mode	Description	Key
Saprotrophic	Recyclers that break down organic material and release nutrients that they then absorb	S
Mycorrhizal	Forms mutually beneficial relationships with plants	M
Parasitic	Derives nutrition from a living host	P
Symbiotic	Involves an interaction between another organism and living in close physical association	Y

# Fungus substrates


Fungi grow in different substrates including soil, living or dead wood, leaf litter, animal scats (dung) and invertebrates.

The type of substrate where each species is usually found is indicated within the species profile of each fungus in this guide.

# Species profiles

Each fungus presented in this guide is contained within a species profile. Information displayed in each species profile includes its morphogroup, common and scientific names, size, substrate, and trophic mode.

- Background colour indicates morphogroup
- Common Name
- Scientific Name**
- Size
- Substrate (Trophic Mode)



**Splendid Red Skinhead**  
*Cortinarius persplendidus*  
 cm high x cm wide  
 Soil (M)

# Agarics



**Horse Mushroom**  
*Agaricus arvensis*  
8cm high x 20cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Yellow Stainer**  
*Agaricus xanthodermus*  
7cm high x 11cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Australian Flour Lepidella**  
*Amanita farinacea* gp.  
10cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Vermillion Grisette**  
*Amanita xanthocephala*  
6cm high x 3cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Australian Honey Fungus**  
*Armillaria luteobubalina*  
12cm high x 5cm wide  
Wood (S,P)



**Australian Funnel Pax**  
*Austropaxillus infundibuliformis*  
5cm high x 6.5cm wide  
Soil (S,M)



**Egg-yolk Fieldcap**  
*Bolbitius titubans*  
10cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil(S)



**Shaggy Parasol**  
*Chlorophyllum brunneum*  
5-20cm high x 3cm wide  
Soil (S)



*Clitocybe semiocculta*  
1cm high x 1.5cm wide  
Wood (S)

# Agarics



*Collybia eucalyptorum*  
6cm high x 4cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Fairy Inkcap**  
*Coprinellus disseminatus*  
3cm high x 1.5cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Lawyers Wig**  
*Coprinus comatus*  
10cm high x 3cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Emperor Cortinar**  
*Cortinarius archeri*  
10cm high x 10cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Green Skinhead**  
*Cortinarius austrovenetus*  
10cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Splendid Red Skinhead**  
*Cortinarius persplendidus*  
10cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Elegant Blue Webcap**  
*Cortinarius rotundisporus*  
7cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Slimy Yellow Cortinar**  
*Cortinarius sinapicolor*  
8cm high x 9cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Variable Oysterling**  
*Crepidotus variabilis*  
1.5cm wide  
Soil (S)

# Agarics



**Ruby Bonnet**  
*Cruentomycena viscidocruenta*  
3cm high x 0.5cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Green Stem Pinkgill**  
*Entoloma rodwayi*  
5cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Velvet Shank**  
*Flammulina velutipes*  
2-8cm high x 1-5cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Moss Bell**  
*Galerina hypnorum* gp.  
3cm high x 1cm wide  
Wood (S)



*Galerina patagonica* gp.  
7cm high x 4.5cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Spectacular Rustgill**  
*Gymnopilus junonius*  
5-25cm high x 10cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Ghoul Fungus**  
*Hebeloma aminophilum*  
7cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Blackening Waxcap**  
*Hygrocybe astatogala*  
8cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Vermillion Waxcap**  
*Hygrocybe miniata* gp.  
3cm high x 3.5cm wide  
Soil (S)

# Agarics



**Sulphur Tuft**  
*Hypholoma fasciculare*  
3-10cm high x 2-6cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Saffron Milkcap**  
*Lactarius deliciosus*  
10cm high x 10cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Eucalypt Milkcap**  
*Lactarius eucalypti* gp.  
4cm high x 3.5cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Blewit**  
*Lepista nuda*  
10cm high x 15cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Redlead Roundhead**  
*Leratiomyces ceres*  
3-6cm high x 2-6cm wide  
Soil (S)



**White Dapperling**  
*Leucoagaricus leucothites*  
5-12cm high x 4-15cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Leucopaxillus eucalyptorum**  
10cm high x 10cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Australian Parasol**  
*Macrolepiota clelandii*  
15cm high x 9cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Little Stinker**  
*Marasmiellus affixus*  
1.5cm high x 1.5cm wide  
Wood (S)

# Agarics



**Velvet Parachute**  
*Marasmius elegans*  
4cm high x 3cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Fairy-ring Mushroom**  
*Marasmius oreades*  
3cm high x 2cm wide  
Soil



*Mycena austrofilopes*  
12cm high x 2cm wide  
Soil (S)



*Mycena clarkeana* gp.  
9cm high x 4cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Yellow Stemmed Mycena**  
*Mycena epipterygia*  
5cm high x 1.5cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Pixie's Parasol**  
*Mycena interrupta*  
5mm high x 5mm wide  
Wood (S)



**Nargan's Bonnet**  
*Mycena nargan*  
4cm high x 1cm wide  
Wood (S)



*Mycena subgalericulata* gp.  
7cm high x 2cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Ghost Fungus**  
*Omphalotus nidiformis*  
13cm high x 10cm wide  
Wood (S,P)



# Agarics



**Rooting Shank**  
*Oudemansiella gigaspora* gp.  
15cm high x 3cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Mauve-splitting Waxcap**  
*Porpolomopsis lewellinae*  
7cm high x 3-6cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Dung Roundhead**  
*Protostropharia semiglobata*  
3-12cm high x 1-4cm wide  
Dung (S)



**Golden Top**  
*Psilocybe subaeruginosa*  
10cm high x 4cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Orange Mosscap**  
*Rickenella fibula*  
4cm high x 1cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Austral Dripping Bonnet**  
*Roridomyces austrororidus*  
2.7cm high x 1.6cm wide  
Wood (S)



*Russula persanguinea*  
6cm high x 6cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Splitgill**  
*Schizophyllum commune*  
0.5cm high x 4cm wide  
Wood (S)



*Stropharia formosa*  
8cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (M)

# Agarics



**Burgundy Wood Tubaria**  
*Tubaria rufofulva*  
5cm high x 6.5cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Beefsteak Fungus**  
*Fistulina hepatica*  
25cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Spring Polypore**  
*Lentinus arcularius*  
2-6cm high x 1-8cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Honeycomb Fungus**  
*Hexagonia vesparia*  
5cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Giant Bolete**  
*Phlebopus marginatus*  
3cm high x 15cm wide  
Soil (M)

# Fungi with Pores



*Coltricia sp.*  
10cm wide  
Wood (S)



**White Punk**  
*Laetiporus portentosus*  
40cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Rainbow Fungus**  
*Trametes versicolor*  
5-7cm wide  
Wood (S)

Tooth Fungi



**Echidna Fungus**  
*Hydnum crocidens*  
3cm high x 3cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Black Tooth**  
*Phellodon niger* gp.  
4cm high x 5cm wide  
Wood (M)



**Golden Splash Tooth**  
*Phlebia subceracea*  
Wood (S)

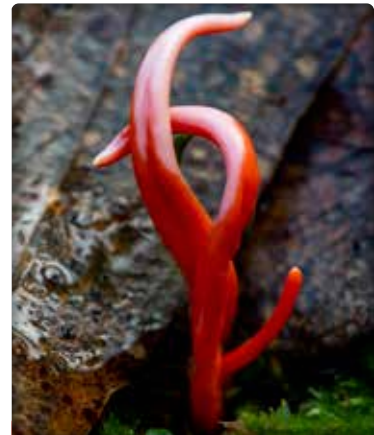
Corals



**Yellow Club**  
*Clavaria amoena*  
10cm high  
Soil (M)



**White Club**  
*Clavulina subrugosa*  
8cm high  
Soil (M)



**Flame Fungus**  
*Clavulinopsis sulcata*  
7cm high  
Soil (M)



**Pale Buff Coral**  
*Ramaria filicicola*  
10cm high  
Soil (M)



**Yellow Tufted Coral**  
*Ramaria lorithamnus*  
10cm high  
Soil (M)

# Jellies



**Pretty Horn**  
*Calocera sinensis* gp.  
1-1.5cm high  
Wood (S)



**Golden Jelly Bells**  
*Heterotextus peziziformis* gp.  
0.3-0.6cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Jelly Tooth**  
*Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*  
4cm high x 1.4cm wide  
Wood (S)



**White Brain**  
*Tremella fuciformis*  
3cm high x 10cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Yellow Brain**  
*Tremella mesenterica*  
5cm high x 10cm wide  
Wood (S)

# Chanterelles



**Pink Chanterelle**  
*Cantharellus concinnus*  
6cm high x 1.5-4cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Craterellus australis**  
3-5cm high x 4.5cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Pagoda Fungus**  
*Podoserpula pusio*  
6cm high x 3cm wide  
Wood (S)

## Stinkhorns



**Anemone Stinkhorn**  
*Aseroe rubra*  
10cm high x 3cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Octopus Stinkhorn**  
*Clathrus archeri*  
12cm high x 9cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Smooth Cage**  
*Ileodictyon gracile*  
8cm high x 8cm wide  
Soil (S)

## Birdsnests



**Fluted Bird's Nest**  
*Cyathus striatus*  
1cm high x 0.8cm wide  
Wood (S)

## Earthstars



**Collared Earthstar**  
*Geastrum triplex*  
2cm high x 5cm wide  
Soil (S)

## Cups



**Orange Peel Fungus**  
*Aleuria aurantia*  
2cm high x 2-10cm wide  
Soil (S)

## Discs



**Charcoal Cup**  
*Anthracobia muelleri*  
0.2-0.5cm wide  
Soil (S)



**Black Tacks**  
*Lanzia lanaripes*  
2cm high x 1cm wide  
Wood (S)



**Yellow Earth Buttons**  
*Phaeohelotium baileyanaum*  
1cm wide  
Soil (S)

## Clubs



**Dark Vegetable Caterpillar**  
*Drechmeria gunnii*  
12cm high  
Invertebrate (P)

## Morels



**Morel**  
*Morchella sp.*  
12cm high  
Soil (S,M)

## Lichens



**Gold Dust Lichen**  
*Chrysothrix candelaris*  
Wood (Y)



**Yellow Navel**  
*Lichenomphalia chromacea*  
2-5cm high x 1-4cm wide  
Soil (Y)

# Invasive Fungi



**Fly Agaric**  
*Amanita muscaria*  
10cm high x 12cm wide  
Soil (M)



**Orange Pore Fungus**  
*Favolaschia claudopus*  
2cm high x 3cm wide  
Wood (S)

## Enjoying fungi in the wild

While learning about the different fungi in your area is an exciting pastime, it pays to admire fungi with respect to the role they play within ecosystems. This includes not picking them to ensure that they can continue to thrive.

Remember that it is illegal to collect fungi on public land without a written permit. Mornington Peninsula Shire does not endorse the consumption of any fungi referenced in this guide.

## Record fungus observations with iNaturalist

iNaturalist is a free, easy to use app where you upload photos to record, share and identify your fungus observations. Actively recording your observations on iNaturalist helps to share knowledge and is a great way to learn about local animals, plants and fungi on the Mornington Peninsula.

How to use iNaturalist

- Download the 'iNaturalist' App on iTunes or Google Play on your smart phone, or visit the iNaturalist Australia website on your computer
- Sign up to create your profile or login if you're already a user
- Head outdoors to snap photos of local fungi and upload them to the app.

**iNaturalist**



# Tea-tree Fingers

Named for its distinctive, finger-like form, Tea-tree fingers was first discovered in the 1990s, and is listed as critically endangered in Victoria.

In the 2000s, Tea-tree Fingers was found in bushland on the Mornington Peninsula, though it has not been recorded again since.

All fungi have particular requirements for survival – in the case of Tea-tree Fingers, it requires large areas of long-unburnt habitat, continual availability of freshly fallen wood material for its host to grow in, as well as a symbiotic partner for survival.

Submitting photos of fungi to databases such as iNaturalist can assist researchers in confirming Tea-tree Fingers sightings, helping to better understand its range.



**Tea-tree Fingers**  
*Hypocreopsis amplexans*  
6cm W  
Wood (P, S)

## Fungi in your garden

Fungi perform a variety of important functions, such as recycling organic matter, providing soil structure and supporting plants, while also providing a food source for some local wildlife.

Encouraging fungi to thrive in your garden contributes to the overall biodiversity values in your local area.

To maximise the diversity of fungi in your garden, on your farm or in your land restoration project aim to:

- Create diverse habitats – in particular, retain a diversity of organic matter from large old logs and stags through to fine organic matter such as sticks and leaves. This provides microhabitats and microclimates that may accommodate a greater range of fungi
- Minimise or eliminate disturbance such as over digging, ploughing, raking, over-watering, soil compaction
- Some fungi rely on native mammals to distribute spores. Protect and connect habitat to create corridors that encourage wildlife movement.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** Research, text and photography: Alison Pouliot. Design: Mornington Peninsula Shire. All images © Alison Pouliot except *Craterellus australis*, *Hypocreopsis amplexans*, *Porpolomopsis lewellinae* and *Ramaria filicola* © Paul George, kindly provided by Paul. Proofreading: Sequoia Lewien. Citation: Pouliot A (2023). Fungi of the Mornington Peninsula. Vic., Publisher