
PSY
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MFH APE:

By Basidium Equilibrium-



Basidium Equilibrium Online





Booming Acres:

By Dennis Walker-

Many mushroom entrepreneurs eventually reach an identical crossroads:

Do you become a mushroom farmer?
Or do you build the infrastructure that enables thousands of other people to grow mushrooms?
For Howard, founder of Booming Acres in Illinois, the answer turned out to be both.

Today, Booming Acres produces roughly 20,000 all-in-one mushroom grow bags every month while simultaneously operating a gourmet mushroom farm, supplying farmers markets, selling mushroom genetics, grain spawn, substrates, cultivation supplies, and educational resources. Yet the business didn't begin with venture capital or a detailed five-year plan; it started in a kitchen during the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic.
"I didn't really have a plan for this to turn into what it's become," says Howard. "It was kind of a '*right time, right place*' situation."



Howard had previously worked in hotel management, an industry that suddenly ground to a halt during the pandemic. Looking for a productive outlet, he purchased used mushroom cultivation equipment and initially considered returning to growing mushrooms himself. Instead, he noticed a more scalable opportunity.

Rather than competing with every new mushroom farmer, why not supply them?
That single decision fundamentally shaped the company's trajectory.

Beginning with Etsy, Booming Acres sold cultivation supplies one order at a time. Instead of rushing to expand, Howard waited until each stage of the business naturally reached capacity before taking the next step. When Etsy plateaued, he launched a dedicated website. When production maxed out, he invested in additional equipment. When demand exceeded what he and a friend could handle, he hired his first employee. Only later did the company expand onto Amazon and eventually into a 6,500-square-foot production facility.
Booming Acres has sold 200,000 + all-in-one mushroom grow bags



Perhaps the most revealing lesson from Howard's journey is what *didn't* happen. For roughly eighteen months, he paid himself nothing.

Every dollar generated by the business went directly back into equipment, inventory, additional space, and payroll. His first employee received a paycheck before he did. Even more remarkably, Booming Acres avoided debt entirely, purchasing equipment outright rather than relying on loans or credit cards.

"For the first year and a half... I never got paid. Everything that we earned immediately went back into the business," he says. That conservative philosophy appears to have created a resilient business capable of growing organically instead of being pressured by monthly debt obligations.
The company's product strategy follows the same logic.

Rather than offering dozens of experimental products, Booming Acres focused on perfecting a handful of core offerings. Their flagship all-in-one grow bag became the centerpiece of the business, with months of testing devoted to refining grain ratios, substrate recipes, hydration levels, and production consistency.

Howard's team doesn't simply manufacture products—they rely on those exact same products in their own farm.

The same grain recipes, substrate formulations, and liquid cultures sold to customers are also used to produce Booming Acres' gourmet mushrooms. That creates an unusually tight quality-control loop. If something goes wrong, the company discovers it immediately through its own cultivation before customers ever experience the issue.

It's a subtle but powerful business model: use your customers' products every day yourself.
The gourmet side of the business serves a different purpose.

Instead of chasing wholesale restaurant accounts from day one, Booming Acres built relationships through farmers markets, introducing consumers to approachable species like lion's mane, oyster, pioppino, and chestnut mushrooms. Howard believes education is just as important as production, particularly when many customers are trying gourmet mushrooms for the first time.
That educational mindset extends beyond the market booth. The company hosts cultivation classes, donates products to schools, publishes educational articles, and actively works to lower the barrier to entry for first-time growers.
For aspiring mushroom entrepreneurs, Howard's biggest takeaway is refreshingly practical.
Growing mushrooms is rarely the hardest part.

Selling them is.

Understanding your market, expanding only when demand justifies it, and reinvesting profits back into the business may not sound glamorous, but Booming Acres demonstrates that sustainable growth often beats explosive growth.

"You can't go into it expecting, 'I can grow all these mushrooms... they're going to be sold immediately and I'm going to be making thousands of dollars every day.' That's just not a realistic thing."
Sometimes the smartest way to build a mushroom company isn't by growing more mushrooms.
It's by helping thousands of other people grow theirs.

"I'd say for anybody that's interested in getting into the business—you've got to start slow and work within your means."
Scan the QR codes below to follow Dennis or to learn more about booming acres !

Booming Acres
Online

Dennis Walker
Instagram

Cultivating a Vision with Lost Garden Labs:

A Conversation with Lost Garden Labs -

Lost Garden Labs
Instagram

Lost Garden Labs and Therapeutics Interview

By-Psy Times Magazine

Sarah and Josh discuss the beginnings of Lost Garden Labs and Therapeutics, their work in Colorado's regulated natural medicine industry, and their hopes for its future.

1. Let's start at the beginning. How did Sarah and Josh's individual journeys ultimately cross paths and become Lost Garden Labs & Therapeutics?

In 2023, while trying to learn everything I possibly could about mushrooms, from the ways they could heal to how you actually grow them, I was connected to Joshua Walker through a family member. I think they had finally gotten tired of hearing me talk nonstop about mushrooms and decided to pass me off to someone who might actually have something to say back to me about the subject.



So I called Josh hoping he might be willing to share some of his mushroom knowledge with me. I told him about my own healing experience and this growing feeling that I needed to find a way to help other people access the kind of healing I had experienced.

The more I got to know Josh, the more impressed I became, and not just with his knowledge as a mycologist. I saw someone with an incredible amount of experience who had devoted much of his life to mushrooms, but I also saw a human being who inspired me to want to be a better human being. I felt then, and still feel today, that Josh deserved to be recognized as a leader in this field.

Not long after that, we saw that PsyCon was happening in Denver and decided to go together and see what was developing in Colorado. We spent two days talking to everyone we could. By the time we left, we knew there was a place for us in what was being built there and that our very different backgrounds and skills actually complemented each other incredibly well.

Somewhere during those two days, the crazy idea stopped feeling crazy. Josh would move to Colorado, we would form a company, and we would pursue a natural medicine cultivator license.

That was really the beginning of Lost Garden Labs & Therapeutics.

2. Sarah, you've spoken about your own transformative experience with natural medicine. At what point did that personal experience become something bigger, something you felt compelled to build your life around?

It actually happened pretty early in my healing process with psilocybin mushrooms.

My first truly transformative journeys were filled with feelings I honestly wasn't accustomed to experiencing: pure joy, peace, love for myself, and this sense that some of the trauma I had carried for so long was finally beginning to loosen its grip on me.

Then I had a very different journey. It felt like someone held up a mirror and made me look directly at myself. I was shown why I had struggled to feel those things for so much of my life and where some of my pain and patterns came from.

What I took away from that experience was that the medicine could show me things and open doors, but I still had to walk through them. If I wanted the healing to continue outside of the psychedelic experience itself, I needed to build a life that looked different from the one I had been living.

I needed purpose. I needed to become more self-sufficient. And I needed to do something that made me genuinely proud of the person I was becoming.



I had spent most of my adult life as a mom and a housewife, and at that point I wasn't exactly sitting on a résumé full of obvious career choices. But I knew two things really well: I knew how profoundly psilocybin had affected my life, and I knew I wanted to understand everything I possibly could about it.

So I decided that somehow, some way, I was going to become part of this renaissance in psychedelics.

I had absolutely no idea what that was going to look like. I just started reading, learning, asking questions, and talking to anyone who would talk back to me.

Thankfully, that obsessive consumption of knowledge eventually led me straight to a mycologist named Joshua Walker.

And the rest, as they say, is Lost Garden.

3. Selling your home and investing so much into an emerging natural-medicine industry is an enormous leap. What gave you the confidence to say, “We’re doing this”?

I've always been someone who is willing to throw caution to the wind when my gut is telling me something strongly enough. So combine that personality trait with what had become a pretty fanatical belief in the potential of psilocybin as a healing medicine, plus my absolute confidence in Josh, and somehow selling our house and investing almost everything we had into this didn't feel as terrifying to me as it probably should have.

Randall is a completely different story.

My husband is not someone who throws caution to the wind. He doesn't make major decisions based on gut feelings, and he certainly isn't someone who wakes up one morning and thinks,

"You know what sounds reasonable? Let's sell our house and invest nearly everything in a brand-new psychedelic medicine industry."

But he had watched what was happening to me.

He saw the changes in me before this was a business idea. He saw what the medicine had done for my life, for our marriage, and eventually for our family. That affected him deeply enough that this incredibly cautious man was willing to upend his entire world to help me pursue something I believed in.

His willingness to do that gave me even more confidence that we were supposed to try.

And if I'm being completely truthful, having to sell our suburban home in the middle of Phoenix and move to the beaches of Baja California in order to fund a psilocybin mushroom company wasn't exactly the worst sacrifice I could have made.

Looking back, the financial risk was enormous. But the bigger risk, at least to me, would have been experiencing something that changed my life so profoundly, seeing an opportunity to help build this new industry the right way, and then being too afraid to do anything about it.

4. Josh, you've been cultivating mushrooms for more than 25 years. Do you remember the first mushroom grow that really hooked you on mycology?



The first one, and everyone since! My first experience with growing my own mushrooms was an adventure that has never ended!

When I was cultivating Culinary and Medicinal mushrooms in Nashville I grew various mushrooms continuously for a little over 9yrs with no down periods!

5. You spent years cultivating gourmet mushrooms and supplying restaurants and farmers markets before Lost Garden. What lessons from those years still influence the way you approach cultivation today?

Planning ahead! Visualizing the outcomes after getting to know time signatures for each of the organisms you are working with. All of these cultures move in their own time and process food at different rates. It's fun to get to know them in and out and act in a creative way while planning the grows!

Listening and learning from the production itself. On top of that, listening to our clients. We value the feedback and experiences of those serving our medicine incredibly!

6. Lost Garden was being built while Colorado's regulated natural-medicine industry was essentially being built around you. What was it like trying to create a facility and business when there wasn't much of an established roadmap to follow?

It took a while to become experts at the rules and regulations that we work under. All of our new clients were just getting business started this first year, this was a huge leap of faith. It was incredibly hard for the first 4 or 5 months of operation.

We love the people we work with and it has been incredible watching all of them grow and really find their own joy in serving the medicine!



7. What was the single biggest obstacle between the original idea for Lost Garden and finally becoming an operating licensed facility?

The unknowns in the beginning! Not sure if we will be able to sustain ourselves!

Once we became licensed, it was very relieving to have clean cut rules to follow(just produce and deliver tested regulated natural medicine to our licensed providers). Trusting that our service and product will speak for themselves, we kept at it!

8. Was there a particular moment—your license arriving, the first successful production run, your first healing-center relationship—when you looked around and thought, "Holy shit, we actually built this"?

The moment we received feedback on our medicine after it was served. That moment was when we could all say we were doing it!

9. Josh, after working with mushroom cultures for decades, what characteristics make you stop and say, "This one is special"?

I get excited about so many things in culture these days, mostly finding traits or qualities that contribute to consistency in production and as a medicine.

Clustering, density, low spore production (in our case), and bruising.

10. You've developed several consistent varieties and continue evaluating new cultures. What traits are you selecting for when deciding whether a culture deserves a place in your lineup?

Traits that contribute to a cleaner medicine experience, low spore production , consistency among fruits, as well as stability from tub to tub. We also value the freaks and the normal looking multi spore sources. Selecting variables from large multi spore grows can be very informative!

11. Of the varieties you're currently working with, do each of you have a personal favorite? What makes that particular mushroom stand out to you?

MVP is the house favorite! Ours started from spores originally when the TAT syndicate was starting. It's our favorite for a strong entry into the space, it can be a bit challenging but very rewarding as the confrontation with surrender often comes with the ones that come on strong. We have ODPE for the gentle work, best for those who benefit from a smooth onset.



12. Cultivators can become pretty opinionated about technique. Without giving away any trade secrets, what cultivation practices or "teks" have survived your years of experimentation because they simply work?

Allowing your grains a week or two extra after full colonization (cubensis).

This gives any hidden grains that might not had a chance to colonize to be colonized. Once these grains begin to metabolize (sweat) they have more protection against the open air to be spawned.

13. On the other side of that question, what's a common mushroom-cultivation practice or piece of conventional wisdom that you think deserves to be reconsidered?

Re-naming everything you see in your grow or isolate!

Isolations and clones don't always need an entirely new name, with exceptions of course. Transparency is nice and very important for future work or serving of mushroom medicine.

Sometimes a re-name comes about to distinguish cultivars by observational differences. Our ODPE (ol dirty penis envy) has two clone names we use so healing centers don't have to present a medicine with a triggering culture name.

Regardless, it's good to have transparency ex. Shakti (albino Malabar)

14. How much variation do you see between different cultures of Psilocybe cubensis, and what have decades of working with them taught you that can't necessarily be learned from a book?

They can vary a lot!

You can find anything in large multispore grows!

Picking wild mushrooms spring and fall will give cooler nights and stronger fruits, apply that to the grow room, consider that when growing for clone tissue.



15. Consistency seems especially important when mushrooms move from informal cultivation into a regulated therapeutic environment. How do you approach the challenge of producing a biological organism consistently enough for facilitators to understand what they're working with?

On our educational tours we walk the facilitators through all of our steps to produce consistency. This takes a show and tell approach that is always fun!

Our undying attention to test results trends and patterns as we also offer a natural medicine survey for facilitators or clients to participate in.

This is our specialty!

16. Your facility tours put a lot of emphasis on educating facilitators about genetics, cultivation methods, dosing, and their relationship with the medicine. Why is educating the people administering the medicine so important to Lost Garden?

In our eyes, if you are responsible for this medicine being introduced to clients, you need a confident and supported relationship with that medicine.

Everyone comes to this medicine from their own walk. We meet them where they are. We offer support for experienced and inexperienced. Education and a sense of community around these medicine relationships is key!

17. Lost Garden offers different preparations and ties production lots to potency testing. Where do you see testing, homogenization, and precision dosing taking mushroom-based natural medicine over the next several years?

In the regulated model in Colorado, pricing is based on mg of “total psilocin“ present.

This is determined by the amounts of psilocin and psilocybin present in your sample.

People will be more familiar with this term.

In the future superior serving techs (orange) will be common place.

I hope we are able to build a body of info involving secondary/ minor tryptamines and make more informed decisions year after year.



18. Josh, you’ve consulted on mushroom projects ranging from organic food production to university psilocybin studies. What have those very different environments taught you about where mycology and psychedelic research are headed?

It feels like we will always have a stone to uncover with mycology! We have barely even started paying attention.

19. You’re now seeing Lost Garden’s medicine move downstream into licensed healing centers across Colorado. What has it been like hearing stories about the experiences people are having with mushrooms that began in your cultivation rooms?

Astonished, overwhelmed, proud, and charged by the feedback and experiences we have heard about!

They are constant reminders of the energy work we are participating in! We could never write or predict/ prescribe the work and outcomes we are witnessing! From physical repair to somatic recovery, it’s an absolute honor to be a part of the process! *-Josh*

It’s our fuel for times of uncertainty in this work! No words to describe it really! -Sarah

20. Five or ten years from now, what do you hope Lost Garden Labs has become—and what do you hope has changed about the way society understands mushrooms and natural medicine?

Five or ten years from now, I hope for Lost Garden Labs and Therapeutics to be known as The Source for Top Tier Natural Medicine! Also, as The Source for Out of state programs to learn a standard in Natural Medicine Cultivation by having Lost Garden as a training center for top quality natural medicine cultivators, offering classes and hands on learning intensives.



I hope everyone realizes that having a relationship with natural medicine is a step into one's healing self. Big pharma will provide a drug owned by a company. Natural medicine is something you can encounter in your interaction with nature!

We want to help make the world a better place, this is our part in building better communities by healing.

-Josh

My biggest hope for what Lost Garden becomes in the future is that it's held up as an example of how we can build and support healthier, more connected communities.

I believe one of the ways we can begin to address many of the challenges facing our society is by strengthening the communities around us—creating environments where people feel connected, supported, and part of something larger than themselves. One of the most commonly reported experiences with psilocybin is precisely that sense of connection: to ourselves, to other people, and to something greater than ourselves.

I see Lost Garden as a conduit for that experience and, ultimately, for positive change. I personally experienced that profound sense of connection, and it became one of the driving forces behind the creation of Lost Garden. What began as a personal experience evolved into a desire to help create positive change—not only in individual lives, but within families and, ultimately, across entire communities.

If Lost Garden can become an example of how intentional experiences, community, and connection can help people live healthier and more meaningful lives, then I'll feel that we've accomplished something truly meaningful.- *Sarah*

BY CULTIVATORS. FOR CULTIVATORS.

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Lunar Ripple:

By The Fungus Frequency "Natal Moon x RippleRilla"-





Fungus Frequency Online







Michaelogical's Psychologicals:

By Michael_ogical-

Welcome to Michaelogical's Psychologicals, where we dig into the experience, what it means and how to interpret it.

This month's topic is "How does Psilocybin work on the brain."

In order to understand how psilocybin works, we need to have a basic understanding of brain chemistry and anatomy.

It, of course, starts with Ingestion
and the breaking down from psilocybin to psilocin.

This is why lemon tek is effective, because the acids in the concoction convert psilocybin to psilocin instead of this happening in your digestive system.

Once it gets into your stomach
Your enzymes and stomach acid start to digest the active alkaloids some are converted to psilocin and enter the blood stream and some are completely destroyed. It is actually a miracle that this life form gives us the correct formula that makes this orally active, and we will get into the mechanics of that in a future episode!

Once it makes its way to the 5HT2A receptor sites in your brain, it fits into the same keyholes that serotonin would fit into, because it is very close in shape.

Now serotonin is a monoamine transmitter and is responsible for all kinds of critical shit in your body and is a naturally produced hormone that is manufactured 95% in the gut biome! Go figure, the very same source of serotonin is the same exact place your body gets psilocin from? What an odd coincidence.

Serotonin is a mood regulator, its responsible for your dreaming and sleeping processes and even sexual function.

Once psilocin enters the receptor sites, it starts to hack the brain by mimicking serotonin.

This is why you start to yawn and appear to be dreaming and drowsy at first, because your brain probably thinks its going into sleep mode and you almost start to dream while you are still awake!

At first we (the scientific community) theorized that the experience hyper stimulates the brain, and this overstimulation was responsible for its powerful effect. But, the truth is
Psilocin actually compartmentalizes the segments of the brain. What this means is there are specific parts of the brain that are responsible for multiple functions. For instance speech is formed in the cerebrum, motor skills are controlled by multiple parts like the frontal lobe, the olfactory bulb is responsible for smell etc...

We have 4 major hemispheres with 3 main macro regions which
basically make up roughly 13 parts of the brain that are responsible for different functions.

One of our main functions is memory.
Memory is not stored in one specific part. It is a combination of information that is stored in multiple parts. The smell of a strawberry is stored in 1 part. The taste is stored in another. The part of the brain that knows the color and texture is stored in another.

This is why we only need maybe 1 source of stimuli to recognize that "this" is a strawberry. Our brains have the capability to recognize patterns with very little information because once 1 attribute of the strawberry is identified it is connected to all the others in the different compartments of the brain that associate what a strawberry is. This effect is backwards compatible in every direction. These neural pathways that connect them are called nerve tracts and they send information from one synapse to another. The synapse is where the information is stored and the network is interconnected in millions of ways.

When I say that psilocin compartmentalizes the parts of the brain, what I mean is the parts of the brain responsible for storing information are cut off from one another. The part that recognizes the smell of the strawberry is no longer connected to the part that knows what a strawberry tastes like. This is why we experience the effects of synesthesia, where we hear colors and taste sounds. The brain struggles to make the connection of association stored throughout the network. What we get is an incomplete and mangled picture of the stored information. Almost like we are experiencing the stimuli for the first time and all at the same time.

Our brain as a result falls back into a default mode network. Almost like panic mode from the lack of being able to integrate and associate. In this struggle it forces new neural pathways to reach out and try to reconnect the stored information. This is where the magic happens. This is one of many attributes where we can apply the theory that "psychedelics expand the mind". Once the process is complete, the original pathways return to functionality as they are not destroyed in the process, only blocked. The new neural pathways created remain intact. This is how it may help speed up our processing power and create more efficient use of it. Our brain truly is.... a computer.

Although this may seem more simple than expected, you need to realize that we are pretty much made up of memories. These are patterns of behavior and understanding through experiences, because these are the neural pathways and connections that our brains have established through these experiences. Trauma is a learned experience just as much as a math problem. To the mind the process of imprinting the experience is no different, even though we give greater significance to certain events because emotions are attached to them. But the effects are no different amongst all stored information. This is why the experience presents itself in an extremely powerful series of events. The truth is that we are a biological machine learning device. Our main function is pattern recognition and how fast we can associate with as little information as possible. This is an example of the predictory nature of the brain. The number of associations we can make in any given situation and how fast we can react is the main concept of "being smart". If you have ever taken an I.Q. test it is clearly evident in the material used to evaluate your capabilities to process patterns.

This is where the future of psychedelic research is headed. We may use these to correct our concepts of understanding ourselves which can lead us out of some of our emotional misery and our dead end patterns of behavior. The pharmaceutical industry will attempt to capitalize on this concept so they can bill our insurance companies to provide this understanding, but those in the community know that we are the future of the minds evolution, not corporations.

We can give as much spiritual significance to this process as we want. But, be aware that this is just a concept of the mind like any other influence. The reality of the situation is more devisive than some of us would acredit it to. I apologize if I burst anyones spiritual bubble with this statement.

Thank you for letting me rant a bit as we can get off on many tangents in this space! Stay tuned for the next episode of Michaelogical's Psychologicals if you want to continue to delve into the mind of the tortured 😵‍💫. If you have questions to be answered and topics to suggest please submit them to me @michael_ogical on instagram!

Black Forest Cultures
Culture Cave

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Brazilian Landrace:

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Caine Brand

I'm still a complete noob when it comes to mycology, and I'm learning as I go. I haven't lost a grow yet, but I've definitely lost my share of spawn jars and bags along the way. Some were contaminated, some just didn't go the way I expected, and every one of them taught me something. I'm figuring things out one mistake at a time.

I'm not an expert, and I don't pretend to have it all figured out. I'm just fascinated by mycology and enjoying the journey. There's something pretty humbling about starting with very little knowledge, watching things fail, and deciding to try again anyway. I know there will be more mistakes ahead, but I'm going to keep learning, experimenting, and growing. I may be a noob, but I'm not giving up.

And if you're just getting started too, don't be afraid to jump in. You're going to make mistakes, lose a jar or a bag, and probably have plenty of questions along the way. That's okay—I'm right there learning with you. Let's learn, share our experiences, help each other out, and keep growing together.

Nicole Alyse

Zappa-Dappa's: the psychedelic strain that finally quelled my tripping anxiety.

It started as a typical night in with my partner, Jason. What I didn't know was that he had my lingering apprehension in mind when he was gifted a rare, exotic species: Zapotecorum, lovingly known as Zaps. Native to the rugged mountains of Mexico and parts of South America, Zapotecorum is a deeply sacred mushroom, revered in healing ceremonies for centuries.

As the evening unfolded, I felt an intuitive pull toward them. I began with the gentlest dose; just a tiny pinch will do. But as the minutes ticked by and my nervous system began to soften, that cautious pinch turned into a generous palmful.

Any seasoned psychonaut will tell you to weigh your dose and structure the night like an orchestrated event. Yet here I was, operating entirely on feeling. Slowly, the stubborn wall of anxiety I usually carried began to dissolve into a still, peaceful calm.

Seeing that I was grounded, Jason gave me a warm smile, said he was going to enjoy his own journey, and went off to bed.

Left to my own rhythm, I remembered his advice about staging the environment. I slid into a warm bath, slipped on my cushy over-ear headphones, and picked a playlist filled with the rich, lush ambient melodies. Floating in the water, I surrendered completely to the warm suds and the hypnotic wave of sound.

Before long, the magic arrived.

The energy wasn't overwhelming; it felt spunky, light, and mischievous. Behind my closed eyes, vibrant ribbons of color swirled and danced in geometry. Opening my eyes, I watched the room come alive. My two cats, Lucy and Marbles were suddenly tearing through the hallway in a full-blown fit of the zoomies. The boundary between our worlds thinned, and I couldn't help but laugh, convinced the spirit of the mushroom was actively playing tag with them.

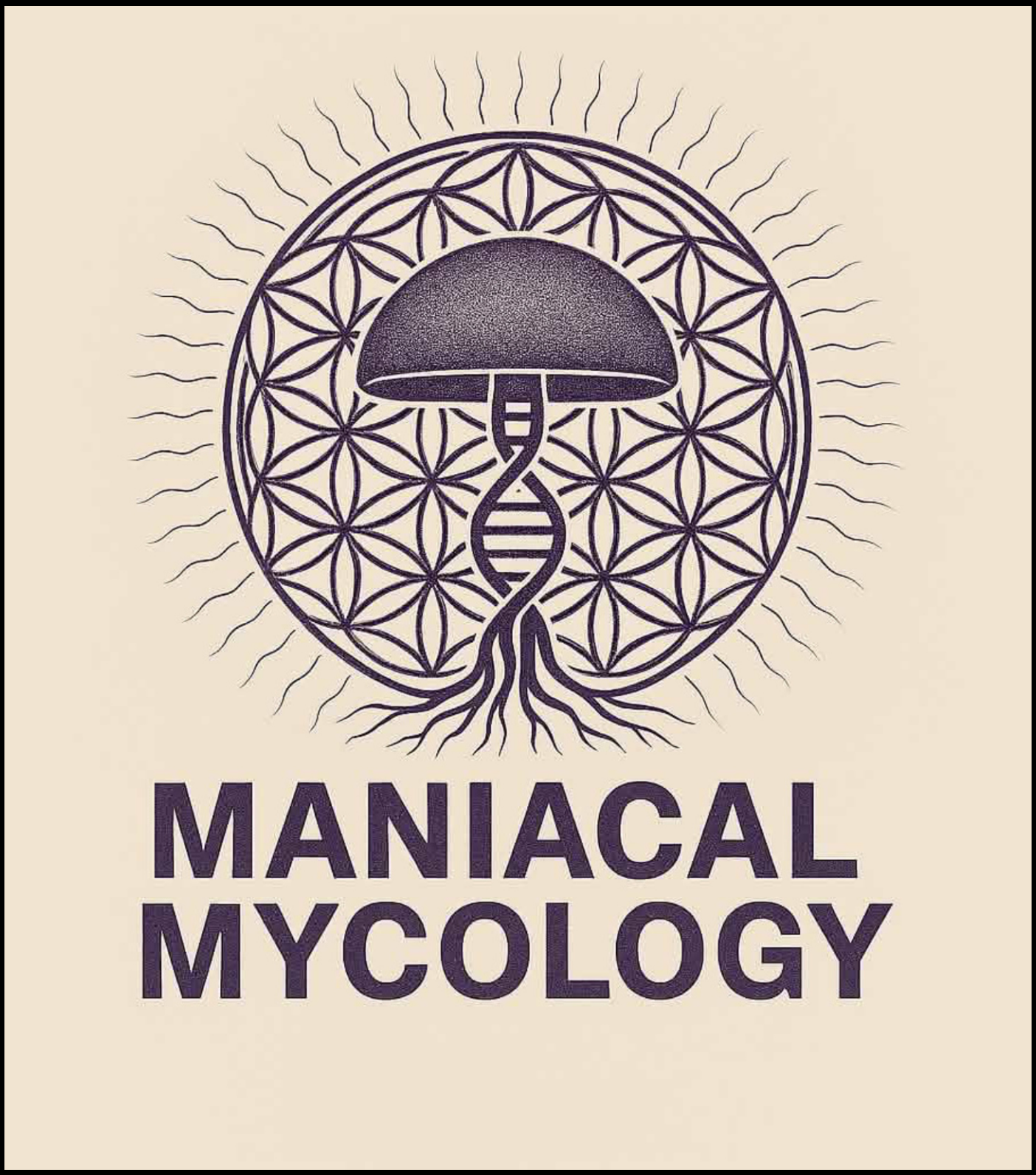
Curiosity blooming, I settled back down to see what else the medicine had to reveal. My mind stayed surprisingly sharp and lucid. I can't wait to tell Jason about this, I thought to myself, even as a quiet inner knowing reminded me he already understood.

Then, everything fell dead quiet. For a long stretch, nothing happened at all—no visuals, no music shifting, just total stillness.
“I am not here to entertain you,” a clear, profound presence resonated within my mind.
It wasn't scary; it was a firm, gentle redirection. Right on queue, a track featuring deep, rhythmic chanting came through my headphones. Answering the call, I opened my mouth and began to chant along, the vibrations reverberating through my chest. My heart space felt wide open, my third eye tingling, and a helpless, beaming smile spread across my face.
It wasn't just "profound"—a word so overused it often loses its meaning. It was deep somatic healing. Phrenophobia-that paralyzing fear of losing control or going mad, simply evaporated.
What felt like hours later, I finally stepped out of the bath, dried off, and slipped into bed beside Jason. The aftermath between us was purely ecstatic and awakened.
A night that had started with me feeling isolated by conflicting emotions ended up weaving us together in the most extraordinary way.
The next morning, I woke up bathed in that same golden, giddy glow.
"The Zappa's are really playful," I said matter of factly, beaming in the sunshine.
"Zappas?" Jason smirked, inquisitively.
"Zappadappas!" I declared.
Something that unique deserved a rhyme and just like that, a new word, and an unforgettable memory, was born.

"On behalf of Psy Times Magazine, thank you for your contribuÐons and sharing your stories and senÐments. Looking forward to more wonderful stories and shares from all the people in our community"

-Wade

Maniacal Mycology "The Tub Goat":



"Out of all the wonderful pictures to choose from to showcase this talented cultivators work i chose four that really stood out to me personally.

Page 32 Indian Graveyard. Page 33 Ghost.

Page 34 Hellhound. Page 35 Pumpkin Monkey Buisness."

-Weighed









PT: SPORECAST

MYCOLOGY / ETHNOBOTANY / CONSCIOUSNESS / COUNTER-CULTURE



Born from the Platypus Technical (PT) community, PT: SporeCast brings together mycology, ethnobotany, consciousness and counter-culture through honest conversations with the people exploring these worlds.

Hosted by Platy alongside Shroom and Frank from 90 Second Mycology (90SM), the podcast connects experienced cultivators, educators and community voices to share knowledge, personal experiences and different perspectives — without the hype or the ego.

From the technical deep dives of Cave Sessions to the psychological explorations of InnerRealms, alongside CannaPod and CactiPod, SporeCast covers a diverse range of subjects united by curiosity and a willingness to learn.

More than a podcast, it's an extension of the PT community, with live recordings that invite listeners to become part of the conversation. As underground culture enters the mainstream, PT: SporeCast stays rooted in its grassroots values: knowledge over ego, community over competition, and learning from one another.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Listen on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or YouTube.

Join the community on Discord.

SCAN TO LISTEN

Beyond The Market:

-By Weighed Myco

Psychedelic reform should protect community, autonomy, and the sacred.

Across the United States, psychedelic policy is changing. Legislators are creating programs, agencies are refining rules, and federal officials are accelerating research. Mushrooms once discussed almost exclusively through prohibition now appear in debates about healthcare, personal freedom, and community care. Yet changing the law leaves a central question unanswered: who will control access?

Our position favors decriminalization and community stewardship. We want people protected from criminal punishment, with room for knowledge to move through accountable relationships—including from teacher to student—without every meaningful encounter becoming a commercial transaction. Recent developments show why that distinction matters.

Different paths, different freedomst.

Decriminalization, regulated access, and medical approval are separate approaches. Decriminalization generally removes or reduces criminal penalties for specified activities.

Some local measures merely lower enforcement priorities while underlying prohibitions remain. Regulated access permits certain activities through licenses and rules. Medical approval concerns particular treatments and conditions.

These approaches can coexist. Legalization does not automatically mean corporate ownership, and decriminalization alone does not guarantee fairness. The details determine who benefits and who remains vulnerable to punishment. For mushrooms such as *Psilocybe cubensis*, a state-authorized psilocybin program does not automatically permit personal possession, cultivation, or sharing outside its boundaries.

Colorado: the boundaries keep changing-

Colorado's natural-medicine framework combines personal-use protections with licensed services. Although those foundations predate the past year, lawmakers continued reshaping the system in 2026.

House Bill 26-1325, signed June 4 and effective August 12, established a funding-dependent ibogaine research pilot program and revised licensing provisions. It also prohibited advertising paid harm-reduction or support services, advertising natural medicine, and using those services to conduct natural-medicine sales. Certain licensed ibogaine activities now require benefit-sharing plans developed in consultation with Indigenous communities. [Colorado's enacted legislation](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB26-1325)

These changes show why reform requires continued attention after a ballot measure passes. Drawing boundaries between community support and disguised commerce can affect the people working between them. Laws should make those boundaries understandable and protect legitimate community relationships.

The benefit-sharing requirement also raises a question that reaches beyond Colorado: when institutions build markets around substances connected to Indigenous knowledge, what do they owe the communities that sustained that knowledge? Consultation should bring meaningful participation and material benefit.

Oregon: a licensed doorway-

Oregon allows adults 21 and older to access psilocybin services without a prescription or medical referral. Administration takes place at a licensed service center with a licensed facilitator. Describing every center as a medical clinic therefore misrepresents the program. [Oregon's explanation of psilocybin services](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/pages/psilocybin-what-are-psilocybin-services.aspx)

Beginning January 1, 2026, updated reporting requirements included collecting clients' veteran status under legislation passed in 2025. Oregon also revised demographic reporting categories. These changes concern an existing licensed program; they do not authorize unrestricted personal use. [Oregon's reporting updates](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/pages/psilocybin-sb303-and-data-collection.aspx)

Licensed services can provide valuable support. The concern is whether purchasing a professionally managed experience becomes the only accepted doorway. Access deserves to be measured by more than the existence of a legal business.

Medical and research pathways expand

New Mexico's Medical Psilocybin Act, signed in April 2025, falls just outside the past twelve months, but its implementation remains part of the current transition. The Department of Health aims to enroll the first patients by the end of December 2026. Qualifying conditions include treatment-resistant depression, PTSD, substance use disorders, and end-of-life care. That opening remains a stated goal, rather than confirmation that services are already available. [New Mexico's program FAQ](https://prod.nmhealth.org/publication/view/guide/9603/)

Texas illustrates a different research pathway. Following its 2025 ibogaine research law, state leaders announced in March 2026 that no drug-company proposal had met the statutory requirements for state funding and that Texas would pursue its own research program. Investment in research should not be confused with general legal access. [Texas's March update](https://www.ltgov.texas.gov/2026/03/31/lt-gov-dan-patrick-and-speaker-dustin-burrows-joint-statement-on-ibogaine-program-progress/)

Federal policy is moving toward research and product review as well. An April 18, 2026 executive order directed agencies to accelerate psychedelic research, prioritize eligible drug reviews, and review possible rescheduling for specific products that ultimately receive approval. The order itself did not decriminalize mushrooms or authorize community use nationwide. [Federal executive order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/04/accelerating-medical-treatments-for-serious-mental-illness/)

Community should remain at the center-

We welcome careful research and respect the choice to seek clinical support. We also believe reform must protect relationships with these substances outside commercial and medical systems.

Markets reward revenue and growth. Communities must also preserve trust, belonging, continuity, and responsibility. Those values can suffer when sacred practices become branding and knowledge becomes a product. A licensed provider may work with integrity, but a license should never become the sole measure of legitimacy.

Our preference is decriminalization with meaningful protections for adults, community education, and accountable stewardship. Record relief, affordable support, and community participation in

policymaking belong in that vision. People affected by prohibition should have a voice in shaping what replaces it.

Community care carries obligations, too. A teacher's reputation cannot substitute for informed consent, clear boundaries, or accountability. Calling something sacred does not make every practice safe. Respect for tradition should strengthen responsibility rather than shield anyone from scrutiny.

The question is larger than whether psychedelic businesses may open. It is whether people can maintain meaningful, responsible relationships with these substances without being forced into a marketplace. We believe reform should protect that possibility: rooted in care, free from criminal punishment for the activities the law protects, and held close enough to community that its value cannot be reduced to a price.

Policy reporting current through October 25, 2026.



Weighed_Myco

Bully

By- Mushreal/Azurean Circle Society"AKA Matt ACS"



Mushrealm Online


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MUSHREALM


AZUREAN CIRCLE SOCIETY
MUSHREALM

How AI is Poisioning Mycology:

By Telly Monster Myco-

Telly Monster Myco Online

From misidentified mushrooms to drained data centers, AI is creeping into every corner of mycology, leaving the field worse off: less safe, less accurate, and less supportive of the small businesses and communities it was built on.

Mycology has always been a field built on patient, hard-won expertise. Telling a death cap from a paddy straw mushroom, or a false morel from a true one, can take years of fieldwork, mentorship, and a healthy respect for how easily fungi can fool the eye. Over the last three years, generative AI and machine-learning image recognition have rushed into that space, promising instant, accessible identification. In many documented cases, the results have been dangerous.

The AI-generated foraging book problem

In 2023, the New York Mycological Society issued a public warning after members noticed Amazon flooded with foraging guides that showed every sign of having been written by AI. The books featured invented author biographies, stock or AI-generated cover art, and text that read as generic, repetitive, and, in places, simply wrong. Journalists who ran samples through AI detection tools found some texts scored above 85 percent as likely AI-generated, despite being marketed as the work of experienced human foragers.

The society's president, Sigrid Jakob, pointed out the specific danger: North America has hundreds of poisonous fungi, several of them deadly, and many of the most toxic species closely resemble popular edibles. In this context, a field guide with a vague or inaccurate description is no minor inconvenience. It is the kind of error that sends someone to the emergency room, or worse. Amazon has removed some flagged titles since the story broke, but new ones keep appearing because generating a plausible-looking book is cheap and fast, and platforms have struggled to screen them at scale.

Identification apps that fail on the mushrooms that matter most

The convenience of snap-a-photo identification apps has made them enormously popular with novice foragers, and that is precisely what worries mycologists. A 2024 investigation by the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen tested several AI-powered mushroom ID apps against real specimens with an expert mycologist who consults on poisoning cases in Australia. The best performer, Picture Mushroom, returned accurate identifications less than half the time and correctly flagged toxic mushrooms as toxic only 44 percent of the time. Two other widely used apps, including iNaturalist's automated suggestion feature, did worse, with accurate identification rates around a third. In several cases, apps labeled genuinely toxic mushrooms as edible.

This is not a hypothetical risk. California experienced an unprecedented amatoxin poisoning outbreak beginning in November 2025, and by May 2026 state and county health officials had confirmed 47 poisoning cases, four deaths, and four liver transplants, a huge jump from the fewer than five cases California typically sees in an entire year. Public health officials investigating the outbreak specifically warned residents not to rely on AI-assisted field identification to distinguish safe mushrooms from poisonous ones, since even experienced foragers were being caught out by lookalike species. Death cap mushrooms are notoriously difficult to distinguish from edible relatives by casual observation, and by the time amatoxin symptoms progress to liver failure, days after the meal, the connection to a misidentified mushroom is often not obvious.

A feedback loop of bad information

The problem compounds itself in a less obvious way: AI-generated images are now contaminating the very search results and reference material that both humans and future AI systems learn from. In late 2024, a moderator of the r/mycology community discovered that Google's featured image snippet for Coprinus comatus, the shaggy ink cap, was an AI-generated picture that looked nothing like the actual species. The image originated on a stock photo site, where it was correctly labeled as AI-generated and mislabeled with the species name, then was scraped and surfaced by Google as if it were an authentic photograph.

This was not an isolated incident. The same moderator had flagged incorrect mushroom images in search results before, and mycologists worry about the downstream effect: if AI-generated, mislabeled images keep getting indexed as reference material, they can end up training the next generation of identification tools and misleading the next forager who does a quick image search before heading into the woods. Once bad data enters the pipeline, it is difficult to fully remove, and each new AI-generated image adds another potential point of failure.

Logos, branding, and the erosion of scientific art

The same generators producing bad reference images are also reshaping the visual side of the field: logos for cultivation companies, cover art for guidebooks, illustrations for cultivation courses, and posters for mycological societies. It is cheap and fast compared to commissioning an illustrator, so a lot of small mushroom businesses and hobby sites reach for it by default. Some are upfront about the tradeoff. One mycology-focused art site openly tells visitors that its AI-generated mushroom images are digital interpretations drawn from broad patterns in the training data rather than the true-to-life structure of any specific species, and that they should not be treated as accurate.

That disclosure is the exception. Most AI mushroom art circulating online, from cartoon logos to faux-scientific illustrations, carries no such warning, and it is often treated as a real reference by anyone who does not already know better. Scientific and botanical illustration has long mattered in mycology because a skilled illustrator can render diagnostic features (gill attachment, spore print color, veil remnants, stem base shape) more clearly than an average photograph. In 2025, working illustrators publicly pushed back against journals and news outlets that published AI-generated art instead of commissioned illustration, arguing that inaccurate, outlandish AI depictions undermine both scientific accuracy and public trust in the source. That critique lands especially hard in mycology, a field where an incorrect illustration is not just embarrassing but potentially unsafe, and where the small community of specialists who can draw a mushroom correctly is already thin on the ground.

Why this is genuinely a hard problem for AI

Part of what makes mycology poorly suited to current AI tools is the underlying biology. A 2026 paper in Nature's npj Science of Food notes that fungal taxonomy is still being actively revised, even by human experts. Many species cannot be reliably identified from a photograph alone; distinguishing them may require spore prints, smell, habitat and substrate context, bruising reactions, or outright DNA sequencing. An app trained mostly on clear, well-lit reference photos will struggle with the muddy, partial, or unusually lit specimen a real forager photographs in the field, and it has no way to smell a mushroom, feel its texture, or notice what tree it is growing near, all of which experienced foragers rely on.

Small businesses built on a big platform's terms

Mycology as an industry, as opposed to a hobby, is almost entirely a small-business affair: independent spore and culture vendors, family-run cultivation operations, local foraging guides, small specialty publishers, and mycological societies that survive on memberships and course fees. None of these have the volume or margins of a large retailer, and none of them can compete on price with content that costs almost nothing to produce.

That dynamic is exactly what AI-generated foraging books exploit. Quality field guides are expensive to produce: they require years of fieldwork, expert review, and photography, so print runs are small, and cover prices are high. Members of the New York Mycological Society pointed out that this is exactly the gap AI-generated books exploit, offering a $9.99 guide that looks superficially similar to a $40 expert-vetted one to a buyer who has no easy way to tell the difference before it is too late. Every sale that goes to a fabricated author is a sale that does not support the working foragers, taxonomists, and small specialty publishers who actually sustain the field's knowledge base. None of the profit from an AI-churned book

is reinvested in mycological research, conservation, or education, as a purchase from an established press or society typically would.

The same pressure applies to illustrators, course creators, and identification consultants, who now compete with free or near-free AI output even when their work is more accurate. Because mycological societies, forays, and paid identification workshops fund themselves partly through book sales, memberships, and course fees, a market flooded with cheap AI content chips away at the revenue that keeps local mycology education running. On a platform like Amazon, a handful of accounts can generate dozens of AI-written titles a month, burying the catalog of a small press that might publish one carefully researched guide every few years, so the flood is not just about price but about sheer volume drowning out anything a small, honest operation can produce. It is a small field with thin margins to begin with, and it has less room than most to absorb that undercutting, since the businesses being squeezed are the same ones that train the next generation of foragers and cultivators in the first place.

What gets lost along the way

Beyond the immediate risk of poisoning, there is a quieter cost to the field itself. Mycology has traditionally passed knowledge through mentorship: local mycological societies, group forays, and experienced foragers who correct beginners in person, often by pointing out the specific subtle features an app cannot see. An instant answer from a phone discourages the slower work of learning to actually look at a mushroom, and it can create false confidence that substitutes for real skill-building. Community identification forums and citizen science platforms, which have historically relied on crowdsourced human expertise to catch errors, now have to work harder to separate a confident AI guess from a verified expert opinion, especially as AI-suggested identifications get treated by casual users as authoritative.

The environmental cost behind the screen

There is also a broader irony worth naming. Fungi sit at the center of much of environmental science: decomposition, soil health, mycoremediation, and carbon cycling. Mycology as a hobby is also about as low-impact as a pastime gets, a walk in the woods with a knife and a basket. Yet the AI tools now layered on top of that hobby run on physical data centers with a real environmental cost of their own, and that cost lands hardest on the communities nearest the buildings. Researchers tracking data center expansion have documented harm across air quality, water quality, noise, and land use: developers often target undeveloped or agricultural land because it is cheap and near existing power lines, diesel backup generators release pollutants linked to respiratory and heart disease during outages, and cooling systems draw so much water that United States data centers already rank among the country's top industrial water users. One land-policy researcher has compared the arrangement to a coal mine: host communities absorb the water demand, higher electricity bills, and air pollution, while the tax benefits and profits mostly flow elsewhere. Water strain has become significant enough that local campaigns canceled or blocked more than a dozen billion-dollar data center projects across the country in early 2026 alone.

Zoom out to the national and global scale, and the numbers get even larger. A 2026 United Nations University report projected that global data centers powering AI could consume 945 terawatt-hours of electricity by 2030 and that AI-related water use could match the basic annual needs of 1.3 billion people by the end of the decade, driven largely by the cooling systems these facilities need to run around the clock. The same report estimated AI

hardware could generate up to 2.5 million tonnes of electronic waste a year by 2030, much of it landing on countries least equipped to handle it. Generating a single AI image is estimated to use over a thousand times the energy of a simple text classification task, which matters given how many of those mushroom logos, foraging book covers, and identification snapshots are casually generated and then thrown away.

Not every use of AI is equally costly, and identification apps, in particular, account for only a small fraction of overall AI energy use. But it is a real cost that a paper field guide, a hand-drawn illustration, or a conversation with an experienced forager does not carry, and it is worth weighing against the convenience AI promises for a hobby that many people take up specifically to get outside and away from a screen.

None of this means machine learning has no place in mycology. Research groups have built classifiers trained on carefully curated, expert-verified datasets that perform well on narrow, well-defined tasks, and DNA barcoding pipelines increasingly rely on computational tools to speed up genuinely difficult taxonomic work. The harm documented above comes from a specific failure mode: consumer-facing AI tools built for the confidence of a quick answer rather than the humility good field mycology actually requires, deployed in a domain where a wrong answer can be fatal, and often marketed or trusted well beyond what their accuracy can support.

And honestly, most of it looks bad. AI mushroom art has a way of getting the gills wrong, the cap wrong, the whole silhouette a little off in a way that anyone who has actually looked at a mushroom can spot immediately. A cultivation business doesn't need a synthetic logo or a chatbot-written description to stand out. Grow good mushrooms, photograph them honestly, and let the fruits do the advertising.



Bluey Healer:

By ClusterDuck Mycology-

ClusterDuck

MYCOLOGY

Cluster Duck Mycology
Instagram







First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.