

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.

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|--|--|---|--|--|
|  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)

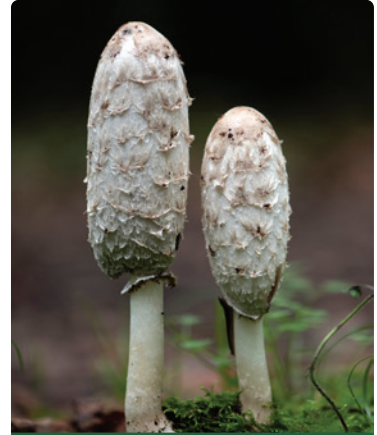
Agarics



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)



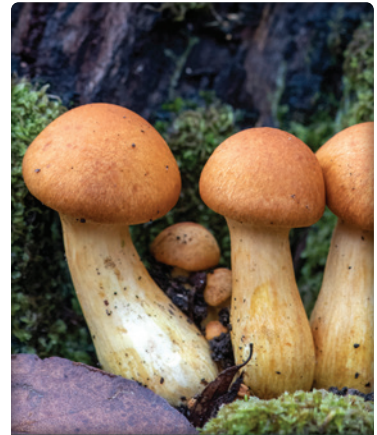
Velvet Shank
Flammulina velutipes
2-8cm high x 1-5cm wide
Wood (S)



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)

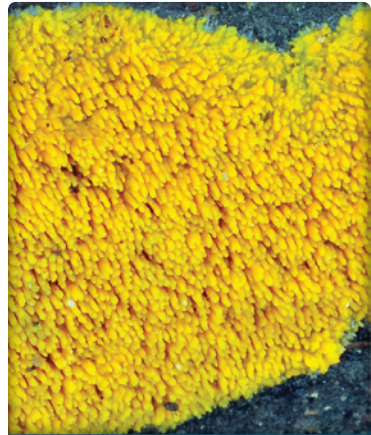
Tooth Fungi



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



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



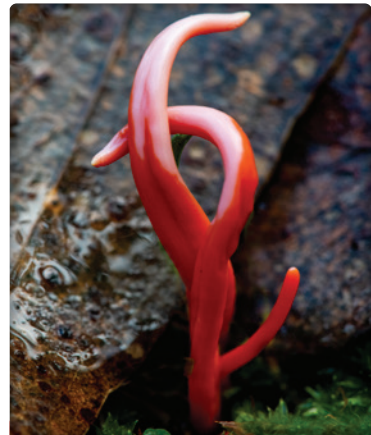
Golden Splash Tooth
Phlebia subceracea
Wood (S)



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)

Corals

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)



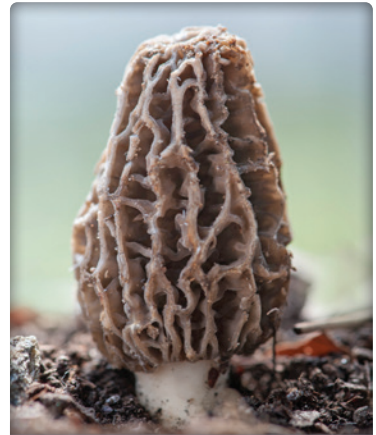
Yellow Earth Buttons
Phaeohelotium baileyanaum
1cm wide
Soil (S)

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 lewelliniae* and *Ramaria filicola* © Paul George, kindly provided by Paul. Proofreading: Sequoia Lewien. Citation: Pouliot A (2023). Fungi of the Mornington Peninsula. Vic., Publisher