HOW TO MAKE A SPORE PRINT Determining Spore Color is Essential for Positively Identifying a Species Spores are the reproductive structures of all mushrooms and can be any color, including white, cream, yellow,green, purple, brown, rust or black. They are produced by the gills and released from them by the millions at maturity. They are then blown away to settle in a new location and begin the cycle anew. Cut off the stem from a fresh specimen that has been open for less than two days. 2 Set cap over adjacent black and white papers. 3 Cover with a sturdy box to increase humidity and prevent air currents from displacing the spores. Mushroom Cross-Section 4 After 24 hours, remove cover and cap. Spore print is visible on either the black or white piece of paper. Christine Elder © 2007