

Characteristics to Notice When Observing Mushrooms

** Make notes and sketches and take photos in the field of your mushroom specimens and their habitats to aid in identification **

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Date
- Weather
- Location
- Habitat
- Growth habit
- Substrate
- Scent of mushroom

CAP:

- Height and width
- Shape in cross section
- Color (and if bruises)
- Texture
- Cap margin
- Universal veil?
- Partial veil?
- Milky latex?

STIPE:

- Color
- Shape
- Length
- Diameter relative to cap
- Texture (outer and inner)
- Attachment to cap
- Base shape
- Ring and type?
- Volva and type?

GILLS / PORES:

- Spore color
- Attachment type
- Gill spacing
- Gill color
- Gills forked
(or connected by cross veins?)

NOTE: Always seek professional advice from a local mycological expert when seeking to identify mushrooms.

Use this guide only as a starting point and not as your sole means of identifying a mushroom, especially for culinary purposes.

Identifying a mushroom to species level often requires a broad combination of the above characteristics including spore color.

(See Christine Elder's online course to learn more about mushroom characteristics: <https://tinyurl.com/m2vdt8fn>)

