

Key to Fungi for Mushroom Maniacs

1.
 - a. Has stipe AND gills or pores ... 2
 - b. Not as above ... 6
2.
 - a. Spore-bearing tissue in the form of gills.... 3
 - b. Spore-bearing tissue in the form of pores; grows in clusters; brown, dry cap, white to tan spore-bearing surface... ***Grifola frondosa* (Hen of the woods)**
3.
 - a. Gills continue down stipe (are decurrent) ... 4
 - b. Cap umbrella shaped, white or cream-colored with or without small brown hairs (fibrils); in young specimens, gills are covered by a veil. ... 5
4.
 - a. Stipe thick, fleshy, and white (> 5 cm diameter at maturity); cap centered on stipe ... ***Pleurotus eryngii* (King Oyster Mushroom)**
 - b. Stipe short and attached off-center to the cap; gills are cream-colored and continue all the way down the stipe; growing on woody debris with prominent root-like strands of mycelium (rhizomorphs) ... ***Hohenbuehelia petaloides* (Shoehorn Oyster Mushroom)**
5.
 - a. Edge (margin) of cap turning bright yellow when rubbed; odor of plastic or paint (phenolic) ***Agaricus xanthodermus* (The Yellow-stainer)**
 - b. Cap margin turning brown when rubbed; odor strongly earthy ... ***Agaricus bisporus* (Button Mushroom)**
6.
 - a. Is green, greenish-gray, at least on one side; uses algae to get energy from the sun ... **lichens (many species)**
 - b. Not as above ... 7
7.
 - a. Has a cap but no stipe; grows on the side of a tree in a shelf-like shape; with pores facing down ... 8
 - b. Not as above... 10
8.
 - a. Has a thick and fleshy body ... 9
 - b. Has a thin, leathery fruit body with alternating stripes and velvety texture on the cap surface, and a cream colored spore-bearing pore surface ... ***Trametes versicolor* (Turkey Tail)**
9.
 - a. Hard to the touch, dark brown-ish cap surface, cream colored spore-bearing surface (Pore surface may discolor brown when scratched) ... ***Ganoderma* spp. (Conks)**
 - b. Soft and fleshy to the touch, cap surface yellow or orange colored, often found growing on Eucalyptus trees ... ***Laetiporus gilbertsonii* (Chicken of the Woods)**
10.
 - a. Grows as a round or irregular mass with powdery spore mass (gleba) inside ... 11
 - b. Bright pink, cage-like fruiting body; smells like rotting flesh; attracts flies to spread spores ... ***Clathrus ruber* (Basket Stinkhorn)**
11.
 - a. Gleba enclosed by a thick white outer covering (peridium), rhizomorphs protruding from the base ... ***Scleroderma cepa* (Earthball)**
 - b. Thin outer covering; in cross section, young specimens look like rice crispies in tar; older specimens disintegrating into cinnamon-colored powder ... ***Pisolithus cf. tinctorius* (Dead Man's Foot)**