

FUNGI AND LICHENS

The **Fungi** Kingdom includes mushrooms, molds, yeasts, and mildews. Fungi lack chlorophyll, and so must obtain food in other ways. Some fungi are **saprophytic** and break down dead plants or animals. Others are **parasitic** and feed off of living plants or animals. Others have a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationship with the roots of trees or shrubs and are called **mycorrhizal**. Fungi reproduce using spores. Many fungi often change drastically in appearance over time, and so are very difficult to identify.

Lichens are dual organisms made up of a fungus surrounding green algae or cyanobacteria. The fungus takes water and minerals from its surroundings, whereas the algae uses photosynthesis to make food. Lichens reproduce by spores, dispersing small packets of algae and fungus, or through fragments of the lichen that break off to form new ones. Lichens can live in many different environments and grow very slowly.

FUNGI



SULFUR SHELF

Laetiporus sulphureus, Polypore Family
Width 7-10". **Color** bright orange-yellow. **Description** shelf-like or rose-shaped, overlapping, tough with soft edges, stalk-less, gill-less. **Season** spring, summer, and fall. **Found** on living or dead trees, parasitic or saprophytic.



TURKEY TAIL

Trametes versicolor, Polypore Family
Width 1-2". **Color** variable, brown with whites, yellows, blues, and greens. **Description** *velvety*, tough, *flexible*, will bend without breaking, stalk-less. **Season** late spring to fall. **Found** usually on dead hardwoods, saprophytic.

STUMP PUFFBALL

Lycoperdon pyriforme
 True Puffball Family

Width ½-2". **Color** off white to brown, gleba (spores inside puffball) white turning brown. **Description** pear-shaped, finely spiny, bursts releasing spores when disturbed by touch or rain or wind, unpleasant odor. **Season** late summer, but can be found year-round.

Found on dead hardwood, usually in clusters, saprophytic.



CINNABAR CHANTERELLE

Cantharellus cinnabarinus
 Chanterelle Family

Width 1½". **Color** bright red-orange with some white. **Description** stalk 1½" with irregular-edged lobed cap, dry, hairless, with folds on underside.

Season summer to fall. **Found** on ground, mycorrhizal with hardwoods.



WITCH'S HAT

Hygrocybe conica, Wax Cap Family
Width ½-2½". **Color** red to orange, bruises black. **Description** stalk 2-4", hollow, twisted, with white base, cap rounded with narrow point, hairless.

Season spring to fall. **Found** on ground under hardwoods or conifers, saprophytic.



WITCH'S BUTTER

Tremella mesenterica, Jelly Fungi Class
Width 1-4". **Color** orange to yellow. **Description** lobed, folded or brain-like, gelatinous but tough when older, stalk-less. **Season** late summer to fall, usually after rain. **Found** on dead hardwoods, parasitic on other fungi.



FUNGI



GRAY URN FUNGUS

Urnula craterium
 Large Cup Fungi Family
Width 1-2". **Color** dark brown to black. **Description** urn-shaped, 3-4" tall, tough, closed at first and then split open. **Season** spring to summer. **Found** on dead hardwoods, usually buried, saprophytic.



COMMON GREENSHIELD

Flavoparmelia caperata, Lichen Group
Width 1-4". **Color** pale green, underside black. **Description** rounded spreading lobes in rosettes, wrinkled-looking, covering bark. **Season** year-round. **Found** usually on branches and trunks of trees, photosynthetic.



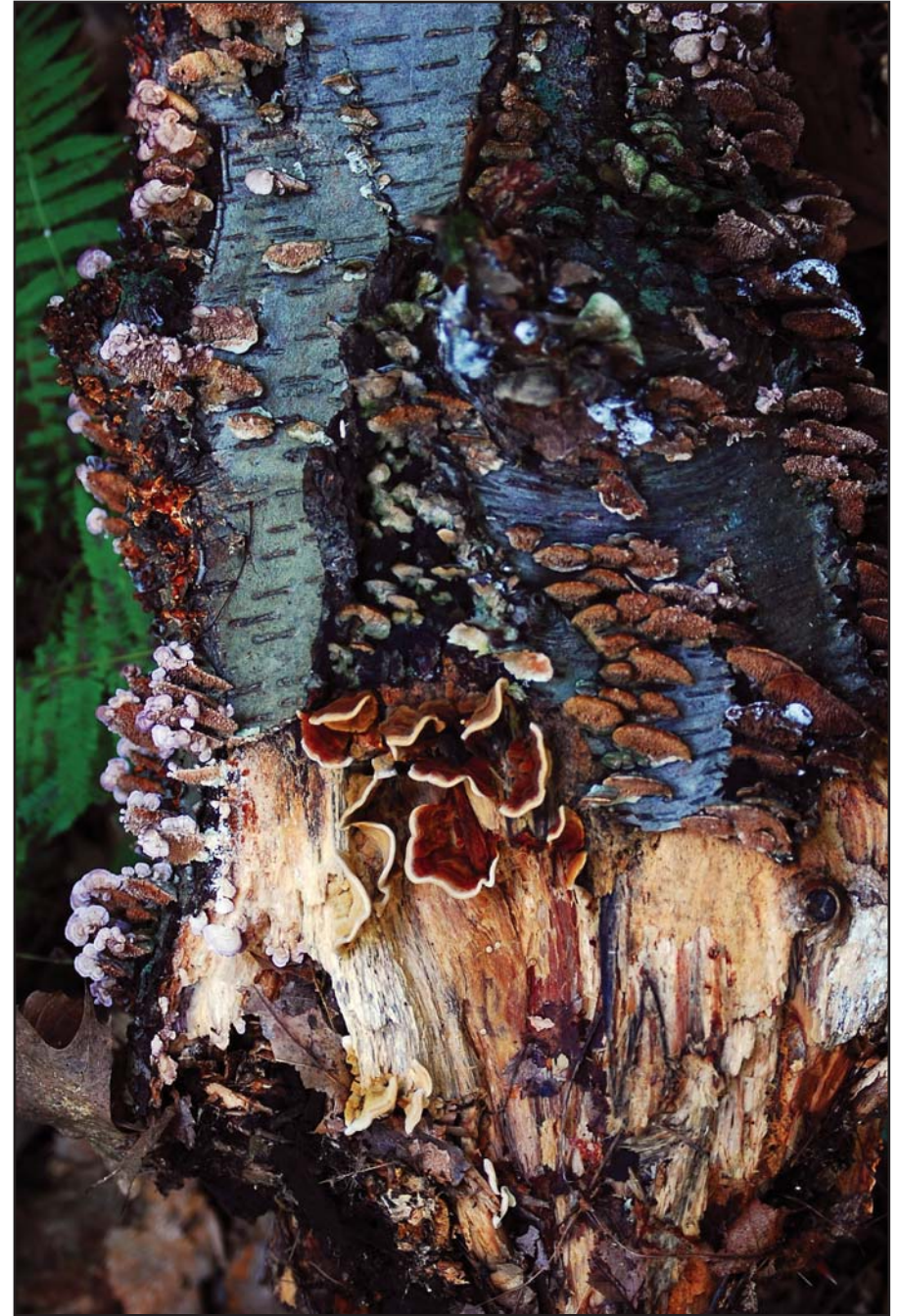
BRITISH SOLDIERS

Cladonia cristatella, Lichen Group
Height ¾". **Color** gray-green with red tops. **Description** stalks scaly, erect, often numerous in groups, each with red, rounded fruiting body on top. **Season** year-round. **Found** on wood or soil, photosynthetic.



GIANT ROCKTRIPE

Umbilicaria mammulata, Lichen Group
Width 2-5". **Color** brown, underside black. **Description** discs with folded rippled sides, leathery and smooth, hard when dry, hairs on underside. **Season** year-round. **Found** on rock and boulders in open forests, photosynthetic.



A variety of colorful fungi growing along the trunk of a fallen Black Birch. Fungi can be found year round, but most often after heavy rains on decaying plant matter.