

## KEY TO GILLED MUSHROOMS FOR BEGINNERS, by Gary Lincoff

Gilled mushrooms have spore prints that can be placed in four basic color groups: white to yellowish (called “white”), pinkish to salmon (called “pink”), yellow-brown to rusty-brown (called “brown”), and purple-brown to purple-black to black (called “black”). There is also one mushroom with a distinctly greenish spore print (*Chlorophyllum molybdites*, the Green-spored *Lepiota*), and one with a distinctly lilac-gray spore print (*Pleurotus ostreatus*, the Oyster Mushroom).

### WHITE-SPORED GILLED MUSHROOMS

- |  |                          |    |
|--|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Stem central  |                          | 2  |
| 1. Stem absent, lateral, or eccentric  |                          | 13 |
| 2. Ring (skirtlike or band of tissue) on stem OR saclike cup at base of stem or removable patches of tissue on cap |                          | 3  |
| 2. NO ring on stem or cup at base of stem  |                          | 5  |
| 3. Ring on stem OR cup at base of stem   | AMANITA                  |    |
| Cap margin striate (pleated)   |                          |    |
| Cup present and ring present   | sect. <i>Vaginatae</i>   |    |
| Cup present but ring absent  |                          |    |
| Cup membranous   | sect. <i>Vaginatae</i>   |    |
| Cup leathery, persistent   | sect. <i>Volvatae</i>    |    |
| Cup absent but ring present  | sect. <i>Amanita</i>     |    |
| Cap margin smooth  |                          |    |
| Cup present, membranous  | sect. <i>Phalloideae</i> |    |
| Cup present, leathery  | sect. <i>Volvatae</i>    |    |
| Cup absent but cap & stem showing remnants of universal veil, as tissue fragments, powder, or warts                |                          |    |
| Stem bulbous, swollen  | sect. <i>Validae</i>     |    |
| Stem rooting   | sect. <i>Lepidella</i>   |    |
| 3. Ring on stem but NO cup at base of stem   |                          | 4  |
| 4. Gills free  | LEPIOTA                  |    |
| Mushrooms large, fleshy  |                          |    |
| Mushrooms white-spored   | <i>Macrolepiota</i>      |    |
| Mushroom green-spored  | <i>Chlorophyllum</i>     |    |
| Mushrooms medium to small  |                          |    |
| Mushroom Agaricus-like   | <i>Leucoagaricus</i>     |    |
| Mushroom Coprinus-like   | <i>Leucocoprinus</i>     |    |
| Mushroom with scaly cap  | <i>Lepiota</i>           |    |
| 4. Gills attached to somewhat decurrent  | ARMILLARIA               |    |
| 5. Gills brittle, crumbly or gills oozing milklike latex on breaking   |                          | 6  |
| 5. Gills not as above  |                          | 7  |

6. Gills brittle or crumbly on breaking RUSSULA  
Mushroom hard-fleshed, white or staining on bruising or aging sect. Compacta  
Mushroom not hard-fleshed  
Cap yellowish, smelling like marzipan when young, fetid when mature sect. Ingratae  
Cap variously colored, matte sect. Rigidae  
Cap mostly red, slimy, shiny sect. Russula
6. Gills oozing milklike latex on breaking LACTARIUS  
Gills oozing orange, red or blue when broken; mushrooms turning greenish on bruising sect. Dapetes  
Gills oozing mild, white latex; mushrooms orange to brownish orange or darker sect. Dulces  
Gills oozing peppery or acrid white latex; mushrooms white to whitish, hard-fleshed sect. Albati  
Gills oozing white latex, turning pinkish; mushrooms with velvet like brown to beige caps sect. Plinthogali  
Gills oozing mild to acrid white latex; mushrooms often fragrant, caps dry, matte sect. Russulares  
Gills oozing mild to acrid white latex, sometimes changing to yellow or purple; mushroom caps either slimy to shiny or dry and fringed sect. Lactarius
7. Gills waxy or waxlike on rubbing HYGROPHORUS  
7 Gills not waxy 8
8. Cap and stem fleshy; medium to large 9  
8. Cap fleshy but stem cartilaginous or rubbery 10
9. Gills decurrent (even slightly) CLITOCYBE  
Gills forked see Cantharellus  
Gills straight, not forked  
Gills deeply decurrent  
Mushrooms whitish Clitocybe  
Mushrooms bright orange, clustered on wood Omphalotus  
Mushrooms honey-brown, clustered on the ground on buried wood Armillaria tabescens  
Gills barely decurrent  
Mushrooms blue to tan; spore print pinkish tan, on the ground Clitocybe nuda  
Mushrooms pinkish brown to tan; gills pinkish to lilac; spore print white; on ground Laccaria
9. Gills notched at stem TRICHOLOMA
10. Cap fleshy, stem cartilaginous, small to large 11

10. Cap fleshy, stem fleshy to cartilaginous, small		12
11. Cap fleshy, stem cartilaginous	COLLYBIA	
Mushrooms tiny, attached to tubers	Collybia tuberosa	
Mushrooms large, rooting	Oudemansiella radicata	
Mushrooms large, at base of trees; stem with white, 'root'	Tricholomopsis platyphylla	
Mushrooms medium sized, orange	Collybia dryophila	
11. Cap fleshy, stem rubbery, bendable	MARASMIUS	
12. Cap & stem fleshy, small, typically on wood	MYCENA	
12. Cap fleshy, stem cartilaginous	XEROMPHALINA	
13. Mushrooms fleshy, putrescent	PLEUROTUS	
Stem absent		
Spore print lilac-gray	Pleurotus ostreatus	
Spore print pink	Phyllotopsis nidulans	
Spore print white		
Cap smooth	Pleurotus spp.	
Cap hairy	Lentinellus ursinus	
Stem lateral or eccentric		
Stem short, stublike, mostly lateral		
Mushrooms smooth	Panellus	
Mushrooms hairy	Panus rudis	
Stem long, eccentric		
Singly, high in trees	Hypsizygus	
Clustered on wood	Pleurotus	
13. Mushrooms tough, leathery to woody		14
14. Mushroom tough, woodlike	see LENZITES (under polypores)	
14. Mushroom leathery	see SCHIZOPHYLLUM (under chanterelles)	

PINK-SPORED GILLED MUSHROOMS

1. Gills free		2
2. Gills attached		3
2. Cup present about base of stem	VOLVARIELLA	
2. Cup absent; on wood	PLUTEUS	
3. Gills long decurrent or short decurrent		4
3. Gills attached but not decurrent	ENTOLOMA	
4. Gills long decurrent	CLITOPILUS	

4. Gills short decurrent; mushrooms often in association with numbers of small, whitish, balllike spheres Entoloma abortivum

#### BROWN-SPORED GILLED MUSHROOMS

- |   |                        |   |
|---|------------------------|---|
| 1. Stem absent, lateral or eccentric  |                        | 2 |
| 1. Stem central   |                        | 3 |
| 2. Stem absent; mushrooms small   | CREPIDOTUS             |   |
| 2. Stem lateral to eccentric, large   | Paxillus atromentarius |   |
| 3. Membranous ring present  |                        | 4 |
| 3. Membranous ring absent   |                        | 5 |
| 4. Gills free   | AGARICUS               |   |
| Mushrooms of parks, grasslands  | sect. Agaricus         |   |
| Mushrooms of parks or woods   |                        |   |
| Staining yellow on bruising   |                        |   |
| Smells of anise or almond extract   | sect. Arvenses         |   |
| Smells of creosote or medicine cabinet  | sect. Xanthodermei     |   |
| Staining red on peeling or bruising   | sect. Sanguinolenta    |   |
| 4. Gills attached   | PHOLIOTA               |   |
| Mushrooms on wood   |                        |   |
| Clustered; cap usually scaly  | Pholiota               |   |
| Clustered, cap & stem orange, smooth to innately scaly  | Gymnopilus             |   |
| Single to scattered on wood; cap smooth and hygrophanous (drying from brown to yellow)                      | Galerina               |   |
| Mushrooms on ground   |                        |   |
| Ring at middle of stem  | Rozites                |   |
| On wood chips; ring high on stem  | Agrocybe praecox       |   |
| 5. Partial veil present or absent but no ring on stem; at most only a band of colored fibrils on upper stem |                        | 6 |
| 5. Not as above   |                        | 8 |
| 6. Gills colored becoming rusty brown   | CORTINARIUS            |   |
| Mushrooms dry, violet; cap scaly  | sect. Cortinarius      |   |
| Cap & stem slimy to shiny   | sect. Myxacium         |   |
| Cap slimy; stem dry, often bulbous  | sect. Phlegmacium      |   |
| Cap & stem dry; silvery-blue  | sect. Sericeocybe      |   |
| Cap & stem dry; brownish  | sect. Telamonia        |   |
| Cap & stem dry; gills red or orange   | sect. Dermocybe        |   |
| Cap & stem dry; gills greenish yellow   | sect. Leprocybe        |   |
| 6. Gills gray-brown to brown  |                        | 7 |

7. Cap slimy; shiny and sticky when dry	HEBELOMA	
7. Cap mostly dry with radial fibrils	INOCYBE	
8. Mushroom large, gills decurrent		9
8. Mushrooms small, fragile, gills not decurrent		10
9. Cap margin inrolled; cap yellowish	Paxillus involutus	
9. Cap margin straight; cap reddish, gills yellow	PHYLLOPORUS	
10. Cap flat, hemispherical, yellow	Agrocybe pediades	
10. Cap dunce-shaped, white to tan	Conocybe lactea	

#### PURPLE-BROWN TO BLACK-SPORED GILLED MUSHROOMS

1. Spore print purple brown to purple black		2
1. Spore print mostly blackish		4
2. Ring present on stem; white cordlike 'root' at base of stem	STROPHARIA	
2. Partial veil present but ring absent		3
3. Big clusters on wood	NAEMATOLOMA	
3. Single or small clusters on wood or soil	PSILOCYBE	
4. Cap deliquescing (dissolving into black ink)	COPRINUS	
4. Cap not deliquescing		5
5. Mushrooms on dung; stem generally stiff	PANAEOLUS	
5. Mushrooms usually on wood	PSATHYRELLA	