

Fungi spotter: How many of these fungi can you spot?

Fly agaric



If you were asked to draw a picture of a mushroom, this is probably what you would draw. Commonly found in woodland, especially near silver birch trees.

Birch polypore



A bracket fungus that only grows on birch. Parts it were used in the past as an anti-bacterial dressing. It is also known as razor stop – used by barbers to sharpen their razors.

Stink horn



As the name suggests this fungus is quite smelly! It uses a smell to attract flies which it uses to spread its spores (these develop into more fungi).

Parasol



These mushrooms can get very big when open. They resemble a large umbrella which is where the name comes from. They vary in colour from white, to cream to brown.

Beefsteak



Found growing on large oak trees, this bracket fungus resembles a steak. Especially when it oozes a red liquid which looks like blood.

Sulphur tuft



Found growing on rotting tree stumps or branches in large clumps. When young the mushrooms are a yellow colour. As they age they turn brown and the caps get flatter.

Chicken of the woods



A bright bracket fungus that is usually yellow and white, turning brown as it ages. Some people think it tastes like chicken.

Common puff ball



A very common mushroom that spreads its spores in a puff when disturbed. When young they are a bright white colour which turns brown as it ages.

Jelly ear



The jelly ear is not easily confused with other fungi. They really do look like ears! Keep an eye out on dead wood, especially elder.

Some of these fungi are poisonous

This is not a guide to assist you in foraging—please do not touch any fungi you find as they are important for the wider ecosystem.