

# Common Fungi

*A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife*

Fungi are neither plants nor animals but a Kingdom in their own right. There are thousands of species, many very similar, so identification can be challenging but those below are all common and reasonably easy to recognise. The mushrooms we see are only the 'flowers' – the reproductive bodies, the fungus itself is a network of threads embedded in the ground or host plant or animal. Fungi are hugely important recyclers, vital 'partners' for many trees and are key food and breeding sites for animals. *When viewing online, simply click on the species name to find out more.*



**Jelly Ear – *Auricularia auricula-judae***

**ID:** 60mm. Ear-shaped and rubbery.

**Where:** Deciduous trees, mainly Elder. All year.

**Similar:** None.



**Turkey Tail – *Trametes versicolor***

**ID:** To 60mm. Over-lapping brackets, ringed with varying colours. All year.

**Where:** Logs/stumps of deciduous trees.

**Similar:** None when fresh and coloured.



**Fly Agaric – *Amanita muscaria***

**ID:** Cap 10-15cm, red with white dots (these can wash off in rain). Autumn.

**Where:** Heathland, woodland. Usually with Birch.

**Similar:** None.



**Candlesnuff – *Xylaria hypoxylon***

**ID:** 2-5cm high. Antler-like and flattened. White with spores at the top.

**Where:** On deadwood. All year.

**Similar:** None.

**Become a citizen scientist!** If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk) and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

**Other common Leicestershire fungi to check out:**

[Silverleaf Fungus](#), [Hairy Curtain Crust](#), [Shaggy Inkcap](#), [Wood Blewit](#), [Common Earthball](#), [Stinkhorn](#)



**King Alfred's Cakes – *Daldinia concentrica***

**ID:** To 8cm. Round, initially red-brown turning black with age. All year.

**Where:** Mainly on Ash trees – dead or weakened.

**Similar:** None.



**Sycamore Tarspot – *Rhytisma acerinum***

**ID:** Shiny black spots – to 1-2cm.

**Where:** Sycamore leaves. Late Summer-Autumn.

**Similar:** None.



**Birch Polypore – *Piptoporus betulinus***

**ID:** to 20cm. Smooth, curly bracket. Red-brown upper, white under. Darkens with age. (Razor Strop Fungus)

**Where:** Birch trees – dead or dying. All year.

**Similar:** None.



**Hoof Fungus – *Fomes fomentarius***

**ID:** 5-40cm. Hoof-shaped. Grey/brown, sometimes with brown tones. Turning dark with age.

**Where:** Mainly Birch trees – dead or dying. All year.

**Similar:** None.



**Common Jellyspot – *Dacrymyces stillatus***

**ID:** 1-5mm. Tiny orange, jelly-like spots.

**Where:** Damp and decaying wood, including fences.

**Similar:** None.



**Blushing Bracket – *Daedaleopsis confragosa***

**ID:** Tiered brackets with a sharp edge. Initially brown then turning red. Pores cream and slot-shaped.

**Where:** Dead deciduous wood.

**Similar:** None.

Find more Leicestershire  
Wildlife ID Guides at:  
[www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides](http://www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides)



**Leicestershire  
County Council**



NatureSpot is a registered charity – visit [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk)