

## Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest

Below are written descriptions and images of fruiting bodies, mushrooms, of the fungal species in this ectomycorrhizal association. The information is from the web version of the Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest (MMPNW) created by the Canadian Forest Service and based on the Windows MMPNW version 1.3 by Ian and Eli Gibson.

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**LATIN NAME(S)** *Agaricus arvensis* Schaeffer Fung. Bav. 4: 73. 1771

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** horse mushroom

**NOTES** features include large size, dry whitish to buff or yellowish cap that is smooth or sometimes cracks into small scales, and usually bruises yellow if rubbed, thick flesh that is unchanging or yellowing slightly when crushed, free close gills that

**CAP** 8-20cm, "convex with flattened disc, especially when young; white to dull brassy yellow with age or when bruised"; smooth to floccose-scaly, (Phillips), (7)10-20cm, convex becoming semi-flat; white to buff, becoming yellow, especially if desiccated; dry, bald to appressed-fibrillose, or if desiccated becoming squamulose (finely scaly) to squamose (scaly) or rimose (cracked), (Kerrigan), (4)7-20cm oval or convex becoming broadly convex or flat; "white to creamy, buff, or yellowish (especially toward center), usually bruising yellow if rubbed (especially when young)"; "dry, smooth or sometimes cracking into small scales, especially at center"; margin sometimes with hanging veil remnants, (Arora)

**FLESH** "firm; white, when cut turning slightly buff to yellowish", (Phillips), up to 2.5cm thick, firm when young; white, unchanging or yellowing slightly, in stem white, unchanging or becoming faintly yellow, (Kerrigan), thick, firm; white, unchanging or bruising slightly yellow when crushed, (Arora)

**GILLS** "free, crowded, white to grayish (not pink), then dark brown", (Phillips), free, close, up to 1.2cm broad; at first white, rarely if ever with a subsequent pink stage, later persistently grayish, finally dark blackish-brown, edge somewhat pallid, (Kerrigan), free when mature, close; "pallid becoming grayish (rarely pinkish), then chocolate brown or darker", (Arora)



Fred Stevens (MykoWeb)



Michael Beug

**STEM** 6-15cm x 1.0-2.5cm, equal to clubshaped; white; smooth to slightly floccose-scaly below ring, (Phillips), 10-17cm x 2-3cm, equal or slightly clubshaped to slightly bulbous, stuffed-hollow, cavity about 0.5cm broad; white, becoming yellowish when old; bald in upper part, often with floccose patches in lower part, (Kerrigan), 5-12(17)cm x 1-3cm, equal or widened slightly in lower part, stuffed or hollow; "white, sometimes bruising or aging yellowish but extreme base not bruising yellow when cut"; smooth or with small cottony scales below ring, (Arora)

**VEIL** ring large, thick, pendant, upper side smooth, underside with cogwheel-like veil remnants, (Phillips), veils forming broadly flaring, subapical white ring, partial veil entire, 0.1-0.2cm thick, smooth above, universal veil friable, 0.1-0.5cm thick, characteristically forming cogwheel or breaking up into white patches which may become yellow to orange or buff, also leaving a few small warts or larger patches on lower part of stem, (Kerrigan), "membranous, white or tinged yellow, with cottony patches on underside that often split to form starlike or cogwheel pattern", "forming fragile superior, skirtlike ring", (Arora), double (Hotson)

**ODOR** pleasant, almond-like, (Phillips), of almonds when young, becoming musty and urine-like when old, (Kerrigan), sweet like anise or almond when young, often somewhat musty when old, (Arora)

**TASTE** pleasant, almond-like, (Phillips), mild, nutty, (Breitenbach)

**EDIBILITY** yes, (Phillips), occasional people stomach upset

**HABITAT** gregarious, often in fairy rings, in lawns and other grassy places, (Kerrigan), solitary, scattered or in groups in grass, (Arora), sometimes in woodland clearings (Kibby)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** deep brown (Phillips), chocolate-brown (Arora), purple brown (Schalkwijk-Barendsen)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 7-9 x 4.5-6 microns, ovate, (Phillips), spores (5.3)7.4-8.0(9.4) x (4.9)5.3-5.6(6.8) microns, elliptic, hilar appendix not prominent, germ pore not evident; basidia 4-spored, 19-23 x 8.5-9.5 microns, clavate to ventricose; cheilocystidia abundant, forming a continuous band on gill margin, 7-35 x 3-16.5 microns, often globose to subglobose and catenulate, or cylindrical, oblong, or pyriform, (Kerrigan), spores 7-8.5 x 5-6 microns, elliptic, smooth, (Arora), pleurocystidia not seen (Breitenbach)

**NAME ORIGIN** means "of the field", arvum = field (Latin)

**SIMILAR** like osecanus which has stockier stature, more abundant pointed fine scales above the stem base, and smaller spores, (5.3)6.0-6.5(7.5) x (4.1)4.6-5.1(5.8) microns, (Kerrigan); like crocodilinus which has wider cap, shorter stem, and larger spores (6.4)8.8-9.9(13.2) x (5.8)6.3-6.8(7.9) microns, (Kerrigan); like silvicola which has woodland habitat and much smaller spores according to Kerrigan, (4.1)5.4-6.3(7.5) x (3.4)3.7-4.6(4.9) microns, silvicola also said to be smaller, thinner, more slender stemmed, ring is only obscurely double, (Hotson disagreed that spore size was different); like xanthoderma which never has an anise odor, but rather an unpleasant repulsive ink-like odor, and the base of the stem turns a distinct intense yellow when scratched, (Breitenbach)

**SOURCES** Kerrigan(1), Phillips\*, Kibby\*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen\*, Lincoff(1)\*, Courtecuisse\*, Bessette(2)\*, Hotson, MykoWeb, PNW keys, Redhead(5), Isaacs, Breitenbach(4)\*

**FAMILY** Agaricaceae of Order Agaricales