

## 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 campestris* Fries Syst. Myc. 1: 231. 1821

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** meadow mushroom

**NOTES** identified by stature, white (or occasionally appressed brown scaly) cap, flesh with no yellow change on injury, bright pink gills, and thin often fleeting ring; common in Pacific Northwest, also at least elsewhere in North America, in Europe, N. Africa, **CHEMICAL REACTIONS** not yellowing with KOH (Arora)

**CAP** 4-11(15)cm, convex or dome-shaped for a long time, then often becoming flat; pure white, or sometimes with a few grayish to brown or cinnamon-buff fibrils or fibrillose scales; dry, smooth or silky-fibrillose, margin extending beyond the gills, often

**FLESH** thick; white, not bruising but sometimes staining brownish or reddish when old or wet weather (especially just above the gills), (Arora), soft to rather firm; white to pallid vinaceous or finally darker, (Smith)

**GILLS** free at maturity, close; pale pink in button stage, then bright pink becoming purple brown to chocolate-brown and finally blackish brown with spores, (Arora), free, crowded, narrow, 0.5-0.6cm broad, usually not reaching the margin of the cap; pallid pink, becoming bright pink before veil breaks, dark purplish brown when old; edges even, (Smith)

**STEM** 2-6(10)cm x 1-2.5cm, usually with a tapered base, firm, stuffed or hollow; white; smooth above the veil, often with a few fibrils below, (Arora), 2-4(6)cm x 1-1.5cm, "equal, subventricose or narrowed at base, stuffed and becoming hollow, white and silky above the ring but soon tinged pink and finally sordid vinaceous brown, below the annulus more or less white-fibrillose, glabrescent, white at first but finally discoloring to dull vinaceous brown", (Smith)



Fred Stevens (MykoWeb)



Michael Beug

**VEIL** "thin, somewhat cottony, white, forming a thin ring on stalk or leaving remnants on cap margin or disappearing entirely; ring rarely well-formed, intermediate (sometimes flaring) or rarely skirtlike, median to superior", (Arora), ring thin, single, membranous but often torn and frequently fleeting, sometimes most of veil adhering to cap margin, (Smith)

**ODOR** mild (Arora), none or slight (Smith), pleasant (Phillips), mild almond (PNW keys)

**TASTE** slightly of almonds (Smith), pleasant (Phillips)

**EDIBILITY** yes, choice (Arora, Smith)

**HABITAT** in groups or fairy rings or occasionally solitary in grass, (Arora), scattered to gregarious or subcespitose (somewhat tufted) in meadows, pastures, along roads and in barnyards, (Smith)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** chocolate-brown (Arora)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 6.5-8.5 x 4-5.5 microns, elliptic, smooth, basidia mostly 4-spored, (Arora), spores 6-7.5 x 4.5-5 microns, elliptic to subovoid, smooth, dark chocolate brown in KOH; basidia both 4-spored and 2-spored in a given cap, the former abundant, the latter rare, 20-24 x 7-8 microns, colorless in KOH; pleurocystidia none, cheilocystidia basidia-like or an occasional cystidium greatly enlarged (up to 20 microns broad); no clamp connections, (Smith)

**NAME ORIGIN** means "of the plains"

**SIMILAR** pink gills (becoming chocolate-brown from spores) are the best distinguishing mark from non-Agaricus species like Amanitas; like Agaricus californicus (often grows with it) which has a more persistent membranous veil and whitish gills in button stage; like cupreobrunneus (common in California) which is smaller, browner and (when young) fuzzier; like cultivated bisporus but basidia of bisporus mostly 2-spored, ring well-developed, cap browner, flesh slightly reddening, rarely grows in grass

**SOURCES** Smith(15), Arora\*, Phillips\*, Courtecuisse\*, Bessette(2)\*, Barron\*, PNW keys, Breitenbach(4)\*

**FAMILY** Agaricaceae of Order Agaricales