

## 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)** *Marasmius oreades* (Bolt.: Fr.) Fr. Epicr. Myc. 375. 1838

**ENGLISH NAME(S)** fairy ring mushroom

**NOTES** distinguished by light brownish cap which is often obtusely umbonate, broad white to buff gills that are fairly well spaced and not decurrent, thin tough stem, growth in grass, white spore deposit, and ability of dried specimens to revive dramatically when moistened; common in the Pacific Northwest in grass, also elsewhere in North America and in Europe

**CAP** 1-5(6)cm but usually 2-4cm, at first bellshaped or umbonate with an incurved and slightly scalloped margin, then convex or flat but often retaining an obtuse umbo, the margin often uplifted in old age; reddish-tan to light brown, tan, buff, or even white; smooth, dry, margin faintly striate when moist, (Arora), 2-4cm, bellshaped or convex when young, flat-convex and broadly umbonate when old, often with an uplifted margin; disc brown when young, light brown or paler when old, margin light brown at first, fading to cream or buff when old; bald, dull, smooth or minutely rugulose (finely wrinkled), (Desjardin)

**FLESH** tough, pliant, reviving when moistened; pallid, (Arora), 0.2-0.4cm thick, white or buff, (Desjardin)

**GILLS** adnate, adnexed or free, fairly well-spaced, broad; white to pale tan, sometimes discoloring brownish in old age, (Arora), adnexed, subdistant, broad, rarely forked or intervenose, 1-3 tiers of subgills; yellowish white or orange white, (Desjardin)

**STEM** 2-8cm x 0.15-0.6cm, equal or tapering downward, tough and pliant; colored like the cap or paler (whitish); smooth, (Arora), 2-7cm x 0.3-0.5cm, equal or somewhat clubshaped, round in cross-section, often with a short rootlike pseudorhiza, fibrous, not insititious; top buff or yellowish white, base yellowish white, orange white, or dingy grayish orange; top pubescent (finely hairy), base felted or tomentose, (Desjardin)



Fred Stevens (MykoWeb)



Boleslaw Kuznik



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**ODOR** agreeable (Arora), of cyanide or chlorine, (Desjardin), pleasant to almondlike (Phillips)

**TASTE** mild (Desjardin), pleasant (Phillips)

**EDIBILITY** delicious, discard stems, but make sure it is not *Clitocybe dealbata* (see similar), (Arora), adverse reactions in individuals have been recorded (Phillips)

**HABITAT** gregarious in grass, usually in arcs or fairy rings, (Arora), scattered to gregarious in grassy areas, often growing in fairy rings in lawns, (Desjardin)

**SPORE DEPOSIT** white (Arora)

**MICROSCOPIC** spores 7-10 x 4-6 microns, elliptic to somewhat irregular, apiculate, smooth, inamyloid, (Arora), spores 6.6-9 x 3.9-6 microns, broadly elliptic, almond-shaped, or lemon-shaped; basidia 4-spored, 32-40.2 x 6-8.1 microns, clavate or sphaerope

**NAME ORIGIN** means "growing in the mountains" or refers to *Oreas*, a mountain nymph

**SIMILAR** *Clitocybe dealbata* is also white-spored and grows in grass sometimes in rings or with *Marasmius oreades*, but has thin, crowded, adnate to decurrent gills and a convex to flat but not umbonate cap, (Arora); *Collybia luxurians* Peck sometimes grows in grass but has a reddish brown cap, close gills, (Arora), conspicuous cheilocystidia, and a cap cuticle composed of repent, radially oriented, cylindric hyphae, (Desjardin)

**SOURCES** Desjardin(1), Arora\*, Phillips\*, Ammirati\*, Lincoff(1)\*, Schalkwijk-Barendsen\*, Kibby\*, Courtecuisse\*, Bessette(2)\*, Barron\*, Breitenbach(3)\*

**FAMILY** Marasmiaceae of Order Agaricales