

Ready-2-Fruit Mushrooms LLC Presents

The XL Black Morel Mushroom Garden Spawn

Keep the spawn bag sealed and refrigerated until you are ready to inoculate your beds.

The Morel Mushroom garden is perennial and can be started anytime your soil is workable, provided you complete it 4 weeks or more before the first hard frost of the season. Morel Gardens may be started in any type of soil. The later in your season you start the less likelihood you will have your first flush the following season.

Your Morels should appear during the regular Morel season for your area the following year, which tends to be from very early spring in warm location, through early summer in colder zones. Please note it may take two seasons to start producing. As with any mushroom make sure to positively identify it before harvesting and consuming.

Bed location and soil preparation

Locate an area in full shade; out of direct sunlight. If you choose to place your bed in an area that receives sun we recommend using a shade cloth to limit exposure. Till or dig an area just deep enough to break up the surface vegetation, approximately 2" deep. Remove the soil you have just loosened creating a small pit. The pit design helps protect the bed in cooler temperatures and also helps the bed retain moisture.

While the soil you have just removed can be used for any gardening projects we recommend placing it around the rim of the garden. This makes it much easier to keep track of your location in the future when grasses and other vegetation begin to grow in and around it.

Recommended Bed sizes

While the kits will cover up to 50 square feet, we recommend splitting it into two beds that are 4'x6' or three beds that are 4'x4'. By keeping the beds 4' wide you can easily reach in from either side to harvest without stepping in the bed.

By doing so one patch can be renewed each year by adding fresh ash/char and wood chips, while the others are left alone to flourish. This way you will be on a three-year rotation, which will ensure plentiful Morels for many years to come. Your new area will begin flushing with Morel's anywhere from that coming spring to approximately the following spring. Each Morel patch has a lifespan of approximately 3-4 + years. Creating a three year Morel Garden rotation is suggested.

Preparation of your Morel Mushroom Garden

- Wood ashes and char***
- Peat moss or clean sand

(For heavy soil add sand to increase drainage-for sandy soil add peat to increase moisture holding ability.)

- Hard wood sawdust (wood pellets work well) - anything but Pine, Redwood or Cedar
- Gypsum - calcium sulfate (Optional)

Wood Ash/Char option***

If you live in an area where you are able to perform a controlled burn, place a few logs directly in the prepared garden bed and create a small fire until the wood has successfully burned down to ashes and larger pieces. Allow the area to cool for at least 24 hours. After cooling, evenly spread the ash and char while mixing in the appropriate amount of spawn based on your bed size, then water thoroughly.

If you are in an area where a controlled burn is not possible you still have several options. Ash and char can be saved from bonfires, wood stoves, fire places and nearly anywhere else. One thing to keep in mind; avoid using fire starting logs and other petro based accelerant and fire starters as well as treated lumber and other treated paper products. Ideally you would have enough ash and char to cover your bed(s) with ¼" to ½" in depth.

Inoculating (planting) the Bed

You can mix the ingredients in a large container or mix it directly into in the Morel bed. Moisten this mixture with water until evenly damp and then begin mixing your Morel evenly throughout.

It is extremely important to keep the ground thoroughly moist during the late winter (warm locations) all the way through spring. If you do not have any rain for **three consecutive days** you should water your garden for approximately 10 to 15 minutes in the morning and evening. Make sure to water evenly and slowly, as to not disturb the soil in or near the bed.

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