

Colonization

After 4-8 months, the mushroom mycelium, or filaments of the fungus will spread throughout the chips and penetrate the surrounding soil, distributing nutrients to nearby plants.

Check back on your patch often. Mushrooms grow extremely fast once they start fruiting. You don't want to miss them!

Tips and Troubleshooting

Your patch may fruit several times a year.

King stropharia likes to fruit in the spring and the fall. You can plant it year round, but if you plant it in the spring time, it might fruit in the fall. Do not feed it any more woodchips until it fruits. If you feed it, it will not want to fruit for you. It will just be content eating the chips. If it fruits in the fall, you may feed it more substrate to get it ready for the following spring.

Earth worms are very much attracted to the sweet smell of the king stropharia, and will eat it, once they find it. For this reason it may be a good idea to move your bed in different spots each year.

Blewit likes to fruit in the colder months of the year, usually Oct - Dec. It loves shredded leafy matter. It will naturalize in your yard, and all you will need to do is feed it more shredded leaves.

in the winter time.

Harvesting and Storing

King stropharia needs to be picked in the button stage, otherwise maggots will get to them. Mushrooms can be stored in a paper bag in the fridge up to a week, and up to 2 weeks for blewits.



Mushroom Mountain

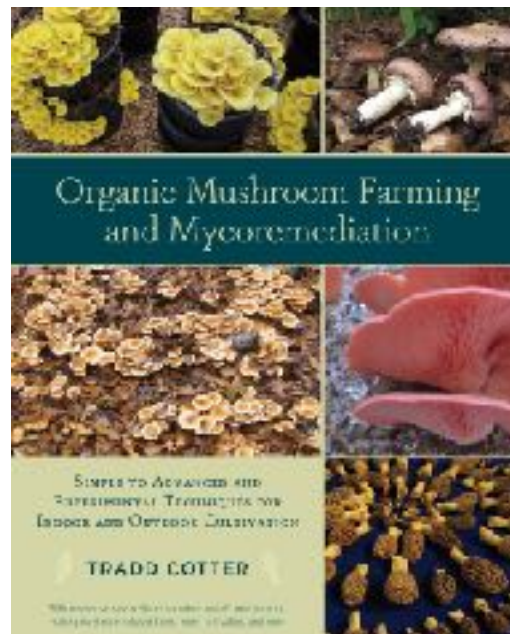
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For more in-depth instruction and advice pick up a copy of Tradd's book **Organic Mushroom Farming and Mycoremediation**



Mushroom Mountain
Wataplow Wataplow



**Growing Mushrooms on
Woodchips, Leaves
and Compost**

King Stropharia and Blewit

King stropharia has delicious mild potato taste cooked in a red wine flavor, and the stem has an asparagus-like texture.

Blewit has a silky texture and is best in creamy soups, and sauces.



What You Will Need

1. Spawn
2. Substrate (**up to 1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet = 10x10 area, 4" deep= 400 square feet**): **King stropharia** - fresh hardwood chips and straw, **Blewit** - composted leaves or composted manure/straw.
3. Cardboard with dyes that do not contain heavy metals.



Method

1. Prepare an area by creating a rectangular hardwood log frame for the bed in a shady area. You can use inoculated logs, like Reishi or Oyster, or just any wood that you have laying around. You can also add spawn to mulched beds around your home or garden.
2. If there are a lot of weeds, cover the entire floor with cardboard from flattened boxes. Water the cardboard until it is saturated.

3. Sprinkle spawn lightly onto the cardboard over the entire surface.

4. Add 3" of your substrate, and mix in a generous amount of spawn. Pack surface to get rid of any air pockets.

5. Sprinkle lightly with water.



6. Add another layer of torn up cardboard, so that the moisture can make it to the bottom layer.

7. Repeat steps 3 and 4, until you have reached a height of a little less than 6".

8. Cover with wheat straw or leaves to a depth of 1-2" to help preserve moisture and to shade the substrate.

9. Water every day for the first week, every other day for the 2nd - 4th week, and then once a month thereafter, unless the bed receives sufficient rain.