

Québec Mushroom Identification Chart

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Species	Nom français	Latin Name	Habitat & Host Trees	Season in Québec	Unmistakable Field Mark
Golden chanterelle	Girolle, chanterelle commune	<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i> group	Mossy slopes under yellow birch and balsam fir, Laurentians and Mauricie	Jul – Sep, peak Aug	Blunt forking false gills running down the stem, plus an apricot smell
Black trumpet	Trompette-des-morts	<i>Craterellus fallax</i>	Beech and sugar maple leaf litter, Estrie and Outaouais	Jul – Sep, peak Aug	Thin grey-black funnel, hollow to the base, with no true gills
King bolete	Cèpe	<i>Boletus edulis</i> group	Spruce, fir and birch, Laurentians, Saguenay and Côte-Nord	Jul – Oct, peak Sep	Fine white netting on a thick pale stem; flesh never stains blue when cut
Lobster mushroom	Champignon homard	<i>Hypomyces lactifluorum</i>	Mixed mid-elevation forest floor, often near hemlock and spruce	Late Jul – Sep	Hard pimples orange crust over dense white flesh, with no gills at all
Hedgehog	Pied-de-mouton, hydne sinué	<i>Hydnum repandum</i> , <i>H. umbilicatum</i>	Mossy conifer and mixed forest, Laurentians, Mauricie and Gaspé	Sep – Nov	Soft spines hanging under the cap instead of gills
Honey mushroom	Armillaire couleur de miel	<i>Armillaria</i> group	Clusters on dying hardwood, stumps and buried roots	Sep – Oct	White spore print and a ring on the stem
Shaggy mane	Coprin chevelu	<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Lawns, gravel road edges and disturbed soil, province-wide	Aug – Oct	Tall shaggy white cylinder whose gills dissolve into black ink
Giant puffball	Vesse-de-loup géante	<i>Calvatia gigantea</i>	Pasture edges and field margins, Estrie and the St. Lawrence lowlands	Aug – Oct	Pure uniform white flesh with no cap outline when sliced top to bottom
Oyster mushroom	Pleurote	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>P. pulmonarius</i>	Dead and dying aspen, cottonwood and maple along the St. Lawrence	May – Nov, flushing after rain	Gills running down a short off-centre stem; white to lilac spore print
Lion's mane	Hydne hérisson	<i>Hericium erinaceus</i> , <i>H. americanum</i>	Wounds on living hardwood and fallen beech and maple, Estrie	Sep – Oct	Cascading white spines with no cap, gills or pores
Maitake / hen of the woods	Polypore en touffe	<i>Grifola frondosa</i>	Base of mature oaks, Estrie, Outaouais and the St. Lawrence valley	Sep – Oct	Grey-brown spoon-shaped fronds all rising from one branching base
Morel, black and yellow	Morille	<i>Morchella</i> spp.	Yellow: dying elm and cottonwood bottomland along the St. Lawrence. Black: burn areas and mixed wood, Laurentians, Côte-Nord and Abitibi	May – Jun	One hollow chamber from tip to base when sliced lengthwise
Winter chanterelle	Chanterelle en tube	<i>Craterellus tubaeformis</i>	Wet mossy conifer ground, bog edges and rotting wood	Sep – Nov	Hollow yellow-brown stem under a small brown funnel cap
Birch bolete	Bolet raboteux	<i>Leccinum scabrum</i> group	Under white and yellow birch, boreal north and the Laurentians	Jul – Oct	Tall stem covered in dark scabby tufts, pores white to grey
Aspen bolete	Bolet orangé	<i>Leccinum insigne</i> , <i>L. aurantiacum</i> group	Under trembling aspen and birch, Mauricie and the boreal north	Jul – Sep	Brick-orange cap over a scabby stem; cut flesh darkens to grey, then near black
Chicken of the woods	Polypore soufré	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>	Living and dead hardwood, especially oak and maple, Estrie and the Outaouais	Jun – Sep	Bright orange shelves with a sulphur-yellow pore surface and no gills
Wood ear	Oreille de Judas	<i>Auricularia americana</i>	Dead conifer and hardwood branches in damp shaded stands	May – Oct, after rain	Rubbery, gelatinous, ear-shaped flap with a veined inner surface
Matsutake	Matsutaké, tricholome à gros voile	<i>Tricholoma magnivelare</i>	Sandy soil under jack pine and spruce, boreal north and sandy terraces	Sep – Oct	Spicy cinnamon smell, a cottony ring, and no volva at the base
Destroying angel	Amanite vireuse	<i>Amanita virosa</i> , <i>A. bisporigera</i>	Mixed and hardwood forest province-wide, and on lawns near hardwoods	Jul – Oct	DEADLY – do not eat. Mistaken for puffball buttons and any young white gilled mushroom. Pure white throughout, free gills, a skirt-like ring and a sac-like volva buried at the base; white spore print
Death cap	Amanite phalloïde	<i>Amanita phalloides</i>	Introduced; increasingly found in southern Québec under oaks and chestnuts in urban and suburban settings, especially around Montréal and Québec City	Aug – Oct	DEADLY – do not eat. Mistaken for gilled mushrooms picked from lawns and boulevards. Greenish to bronze cap, white free gills, both a ring and a sac-like volva; white spore print
Deadly galerina	Galère marginée	<i>Galerina marginata</i>	Small clusters on dead conifer and hardwood, the same mossy logs that carry honey mushrooms and velvet foot	Aug – Nov	DEADLY – do not eat. Mistaken for honey mushrooms and velvet foot. Rusty-brown spore print where both edibles print white; a ring on the stem, and no dark velvety stem base

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Jack-o'-lantern	Clitocybe lumineux	<i>Omphalotus illudens</i>	Dense clusters on hardwood stumps and buried roots through southern Québec	Jul – Oct	Poisonous – severe illness. Mistaken for chanterelles and chicken of the woods. Sharp true gills rather than blunt forking ridges, and tight clusters from wood rather than single mushrooms from soil
False morel	Fausse morille	<i>Gyromitra esculenta</i>	Sandy soil under conifers and on disturbed ground across the province	Apr – Jun	DEADLY – do not eat. Mistaken for true morels. A brain-like wrinkled cap rather than a pitted honeycomb, and an interior that is solid or chambered rather than one hollow chamber

Never eat any wild mushroom you have not identified with certainty against multiple features. When in doubt, throw it out.

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