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Fungus FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

What's this stuff growing on my mulch? It's most likely fungus. As mulch decomposes and temperatures rise in July and August, hardwood mulch can occasionally become a friendly home to several fungus growths. Fungi are not related to the processing of it, but are simply the result of the proper conditions of temperature and moisture. They occur naturally in most types of mulch.

How do I know what kind of fungus?

There are 4 types:

- **Mushrooms or Toadstools:** they vary in size, shape and color. They are easily removed by raking or breaking them up with your foot. CAUTION: THEY MAY BE POISONOUS IF EATEN.
- **Slime Molds:** this looks like "dog vomit". They are normally a temporary nuisance confined to a small area. If left alone, they will decompose. If the appearance is offensive, simply remove and discard.
- **Bird Nest Fungus:** these resemble tiny, gray to brown bird's nests or splash cups with eggs. They may grow in large areas of mulch, but are not a problem. They are actually interesting to look at, show them to children!!
- **Artillery or Shotgun Fungus:** this is a rare type of fungus. These spores may explode and leave small dots on the siding on your house, which are very difficult to remove. Your best defense is to remove the infected mulch as soon as it is spotted.

Is there any mulch that does not support fungus growth? Out of all the studies done, the most resistant mulch was Large Pine Bark Nuggets. The large nuggets stay hard and dry, conditions that fungus does not like. Cypress Mulch also performed well.

NOTE: There is no sure fire way of preventing these fungi.