Find our fungi!

Discovering fungi of the Murraylands and Riverland region through citizen science.

Fungi are an integral part of the web of life. They form partnerships with 90% of our Australian plants, and help to deliver essential micronutrients which the plants need to thrive. Fungi help to build healthy soil and protect their host plants from disease. They even help trees 'talk' to each other!

Fungi are a major player in nutrient recycling. They play a critical role in decomposing organic matter, especially wood and leaves. Without fungi, all of our plants would be stunted, and all the wood that has ever fallen would remain because there is nothing to help it rot!

Imagine you can look beneath the soil within a healthy bushland. You would see a massive network of interwoven fungal threads, plant roots and micro-organisms. Healthy soil is teeming with life! There are just as many species below the ground as above – and many are fungi.

Fungi are vastly under-studied. There are over 50,000 species of fungi in Australia and yet only 24% of them have been described and named. We know even less about their distribution and the health of their populations.

Fungi are susceptible to many of the same threats that affect our native animals and plants – including bushland clearance, disturbance changes (fire and flood), weeds and climate change.

We need your help!

To enable the community to help us learn more, we have chosen the ten fungi species on this chart as 'target species'. We encourage you to look for these 10 species and submit records via the fungimap project on iNaturalist.

For details on how to do this and what records to submit, please collect a free copy of our 'Find Our Fungi' booklet from your local Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board office or contact 8532 9100.

Yellow coral fungus

Ramaria lorithamnus

Image credit: Neale Dyster

Defining Features

- up to 8 cm across
- yellow branches are slender and densely clustered
- tips have 1-2 forks (rarely 3) like little fingers
- turns wine-red when bruised
- yellow–brown spores

June-July

Coral

Fly agaric

Amanita muscaria

Image credit: Malcolm McKinty

Defining features

- up to 25 cm across
- cap edge is smooth or faintly grooved
- stem has skirt-like ring
- stem base is bulbous with scaly bands
- white spores

April-July

Gill

Vermilion grisette

Amanita xanthocephala

Image credit: Neale Dyster

Defining features

- up to 5 cm across
- cap edge has grooves
- bare stem (no ring)
- bright yellow–orange rim on the swollen base
- white spores

May-Oct

Gill

Elegant blue webcap

Cortinarius rotundisporus

Image credit: Neale Dyster

Defining features

- up to 7 cm across
- cap is blue and slimy
- cap centre is dark yellow
- stem is long (up to 14 cm)
- rusty-brown spores

April-Sept

Gill

This ID chart has ten target species that each belong to one of the four groups:

Club and coral
Coral or club-shaped with fleshy texture.

Tough pore
Tough texture, with pores on the underside.

Gill
Fleshy cap with an underside of gills radiating from centre.

Puff ball
Powdery spores within a roundish sac with a central hole at the top.

Have you handled fungi?

Did you know some fungi are toxic? We recommend you wash your hands after handing fungi.

= Typical fruiting time

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND

THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

fungimap

Yellow navel
Lichenomphalia chromacea

Image credit: Neale Dyster

Defining features
- up to 2.5 cm across
- yellow with central indent
- flattens to funnel shape with age
- always grows on mat of green algae
- white spores

May-Sept

Gill

Nargan's bonnet
Mycena nargan

Image credit: Geoff Carle

Defining features
- up to 2 cm across
- cap is dark brown with white spots
- white spores

July-Aug

Gill

Ghost fungus
Omphalotus nidiformis

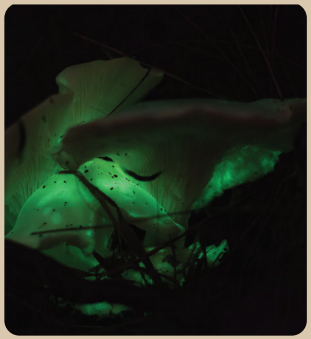

Image credit: Kearn Jones

Defining features
- up to 30 cm across
- glows in the dark
- fan or funnel-shaped
- cap is white-cream with darker centre
- grows on logs or base of trees
- white spores

May-July

Gill

Orange mosscap
Rickenella fibula

Image credit: Nicola Barnes

Defining features
- up to 1 cm across
- cap is orange and flattens with age
- stem is long and slender
- cap and stem covered in fine hairs
- grows within moss
- white spores

June-July

Gill

Copper coin
Coltricia cinnamomea

Image credit: David Catcheside

Defining features
- up to 5 cm across
- cap has cinnamon–brown bands (like age-rings on a tree)
- cap has distinctive sheen of tiny, shiny, radiating hairs
- underside has pores not gills
- yellow–brown spores

May-Sept

Tough pore

Collared earthstar
Geastrum triplex

Image credit: Neale Dyster

Defining features
- up to 12 cm across rays
- thin, spherical sac sitting in a star-shaped cup
- 4 to 8 rays curl under, rays often crack to form a 'collar' around spore sac
- no dirt stuck to underside
- pale ring around pointed spore-releasing pore
- brown spores

July-Sept

Puff ball

Top things to look for when identifying fungi:
- shape and colour
- cap colour & texture
- spore surface e.g. gills or pores
- stem e.g. ring present or not
- stem base e.g. sac present or not
- habitat area e.g. native forest and woodlands, eucalypt forests, mallee, river redgum community, thick moss beds, mats of green algae and bare soil.

Submit online

Upload your photos and information about the target fungi on this identification chart via the Fungimap project on iNaturalist.

www.inaturalist.org/projects/fungimap-australia

Image credit: Nicola Barnes