

Cardboard Spawn: Easy Mushroom Cloning Technique

This spawn can then be used to create indoor and outdoor mushroom patches using mushroom stem butts. They are the bottom of the mushroom stem, the area where the stem meets the mycelium.

Mushroom stem butts often have rhizomorphs, or pieces of mycelium, attached to them. Rhizomorphs are root like structures used to transfer nutrients. Not all mushrooms have rhizomorphs, and not all mushrooms will regrow from stem butts.



Which species of Mushrooms can you use?

Oysters, blewits, garden giant, turkey tail, meadow mushrooms, This easy mushroom cloning technique is perfect for the 'secondary decomposers' – mushrooms that like a rich substrate of organic materials.

Supplies

1. Fresh mushrooms, with their stem butts intact.
2. Cardboard with corrugations in the center (and not glossy, waxed or super inky).
3. A ziplock plastic bag, glass jar or plastic container that seals well.



Method:

1. Soak your cardboard in warm water for a few hours, then pull away one outer layer of the cardboard to reveal the corrugated center.



2. Drain the cardboard until it is damp but not dripping.
3. Cut the bottom the bottom 1-2 inches of the stem butt.
4. Lay the mushroom stem butts on top of the corrugated cardboard.
5. Lay the outer layer of cardboard (the one you pulled off) over the stem butts. Roll your cardboard up, ensuring lots of points of contact between the stem butts and the cardboard – you want it as snug as possible, while still having air to breathe.
6. Place the whole bundle in the plastic bag / jar / whatever you're using, and seal.
7. Put this roll in a dark, warm place somewhere in your house (between 65°-80°). Inside a cupboard is fine.
8. Check the cardboard after a few weeks. The mycelium from the mushroom stem butts should have started to grow through the cardboard.
9. When the cardboard is fully myceliated (looking white and fluffy) you can use this cardboard to inoculate a mushroom garden or patch.

