



Instructions for making an outdoor mushroom bed

A sunny location works well. You can choose straw, wood chips (no cedar or other aromatic wood), compost, or a mixture of any of these substrates. The mushrooms you are growing will have specific substrates they prefer to grow on so please check on substrate compatibility before making your mushroom bed. One (5 LB) bag of our mushroom spawn can be spread over 100 square feet.

1. To prepare a spot for a mushroom patch, first clear out weeds, grass or debris to get down to bare earth. A layer of unwaxed cardboard should be added. Wet the cardboard thoroughly then broadcast half the bag of spawn evenly on top of your cardboard.



2. Add 2 inches of your substrate, completely covering the cardboard, including over the edges of the cardboard. Spread out the substrate to even out the surface of the bed. Water the bed.



3. Sprinkle the second half of the spawn evenly over the substrate.

Cover the spawn evenly with another 2 inches of substrate. Now top dress the bed with 2 inches of clean straw. The straw will keep moisture in the newly prepared bed.

4. Water the bed every day for the first week then once a week, unless there is rain.



It is ok if the top of the bed feels dry, but make sure the substrate underneath the top layer stays moist. Adjust watering as needed.

When mushrooms start to appear (usually takes about 8 weeks) water daily. The mushrooms generally fruit 3 crops about 1 month apart. The best time to start mushroom beds is after the last heavy freeze. That will give you 5-6 months of growing season before heavy freezing sets in.



During winter, top dress your mushroom beds with straw, leaves, wood chips, or any other organic matter to insulate them from freezing temperatures.

In the spring, remove the layer you top dressed the bed with during in winter and add 2 inches of fresh substrate. Every 2 years you should dig up the mycelium and refurbish the mushroom bed by laying down fresh cardboard and starting the bed all over again. Use the mycelium you dug up as your spawn and follow the directions above.

After your mushroom bed has been established (this takes 2 years) you can spread the mycelium to make multiple mushroom beds. Do this by digging up some of the substrate colonized by mycelium and spread it on fresh substrate in a new area (follow directions above for making a mushroom bed).



*If you don't plan to plant the newly purchased bag of spawn immediately, you can store your spawn in the bag it came in for up to 2 weeks. For longer storage (up to three more weeks), the spawn should be refrigerated. Do not open the bag until you are ready to use it.