

## DENVER METRO AREA

Mushroom hunting is alive and well in the streets of metropolitan Denver, especially during the months of May & September, and sometimes in between. The older city parks are excellent places to look, particularly in areas with heavy mulches. Divided avenues with center plantings such as 6th, 7th and Monaco Parkway are also good places to look. Large fruitings of edible and non-edible mushrooms grow in Fairmont cemetery at Alameda and Quebec.

Watch for fungi when you are walking or biking along the Highline Canal or the South Platte River greenbelt. Try a bike trip through your neighborhood in April or May and you will probably come home with a bag of oyster mushrooms, *Pleurotus ostreatus*. You may also find asparagus and watercress along the way.

City mushroom hunting may not be as exciting as a trip to the mountains, but it is usually just as productive. Be sure to ask permission to enter yards and beware of pollutants.

Common city mushrooms include several *Agaricus* species, *Coprinus* species, *Marasmius* species, stinkhorns, puffballs, *Lepiota rachodes* and its look alike, *Chlorophyllum molybdites*. *Pleurotus ostreatus* is often found in amazing abundance in the Denver area. It commonly grows on dead cottonwood or poplar trees, stumps or even exposed roots.

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