



morel

Morchella spp.

Kingdom: Fungi
Division/Phylum: Ascomycota
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

Morels are part of a group of fungi called sponge mushrooms. The name is applied because of the spongelike cap of these organisms. They are large fungi with hollow stalks. Slots are often present at the base of the stalk. The cap is oval to conical in shape. Spores are yellow. These fungi range in color from white to brown with the stalk lighter than the cap.

BEHAVIORS

Morels may be found statewide in Illinois. They grow in scattered groups in forests and sometimes in open, disturbed areas. Spores are produced in late spring. Morel spores contain clusters of oil droplets.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.