



Identify 100 Species – Common Fungi

10 species you are likely to find in Leicestershire and Rutland

How easy is it to identify?

Easy



Care needed



Target species

Jelly Ear – *Auricularia auricula-judae* ●

ID: 60mm. Ear-shaped and rubbery.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Deciduous trees, mainly Elder. All year.

About: Has been named Judas's Ear due to it being found on Elder which the Bible says was the tree he hung himself on.

Recording: Photo required.



Candlesnuff – *Xylaria hypoxylon* ●

ID: 2-5cm high. Antler-like and flattened. White with spores at the top.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: On deadwood. All year.

About: The fungus contains medical properties that are active against some human cancers.

Recording: Photo required.



King Alfred's Cakes – *Daldinia concentrica* ●

ID: To 8cm. Round, initially red-brown turning black with age. All year.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Mainly on Ash trees – dead or weakened.

About: The common name derives from its similarity to the burnt cakes reputedly attributed to the king.

Recording: Photo required.



Other common Leicestershire xx to check out:

Silverleaf Fungus, Hairy Curtain Crust, Shaggy Inkcap, Wood Blewit, Common Earthball, Stinkhorn

Turkey Tail – *Trametes versicolor* ●

ID: To 60mm. Over-lapping brackets, ringed with varying colours. All year.

Similar species: None when fresh and coloured.

Where to look: Logs/stumps of deciduous trees.

About: Once used as a table decoration and even to decorate hats.

Recording: Photo required.



To find out more about the [100 Species Challenge](#), how to submit records of your sightings and lots more about the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland, visit www.naturespot.org.uk.

Fly Agaric – *Amanita muscaria* ●

ID: Cap 10-15cm, red with white dots (these can wash off in rain). Autumn.
Similar species: None.
Where to look: Heathland, woodland. Usually with Birch.
About: Poisonous. If eaten it can cause hallucinations and psychotic reactions. Features in fairy stories and is referred to in Alice in Wonderland.
Recording: Photo required.



Sycamore Tarspot – *Rhytisma acerinum* ●

ID: Shiny black spots – to 1-2cm.
Similar species: None.
Where to look: Sycamore leaves but sometimes on other species. Late Summer-Autumn.
About: A citizen science survey to see if the number of spots per leaf was related to air pollution found no link.
Recording: Photo required.



Birch Polypore – *Piptoporus betulinus* ●

ID: To 20cm. Smooth, curvey bracket. Red-brown upper, white under. Darkens with age.
Similar species: None.
Where to look: Birch trees – dead or dying. All year.
About: The alternative name of Razor Strop Fungus comes from its use for sharpening blades once it has been dried.
Recording: Photo required.



Common Jellyspot – *Dacrymyces stillatus* ●

ID: 1-5mm. Tiny orange, jelly-like spots.
Similar species: None.
Where to look: Damp and decaying wood, including fences.
About: The spots appear after damp weather at any time of year, often found on garden furniture and outside wooden objects.
Recording: Photo required.



Hoof Fungus – *Fomes fomentarius* ●

ID: 5-40cm. Hoof-shaped. Grey/brown, sometimes with brown tones. Turning dark with age.
Similar species: None.
Where to look: Mainly Birch trees – dead or dying. All year.
About: Also called Tinder Fungus as it has been used as kindling to start fires.
Recording: Photo required.



Blushing Bracket – *Daedaleopsis confragosa* ●

ID: Tiered brackets with a sharp edge. Initially brown then turning red. Pores cream and slot-shaped.
Similar species: None.
Where to look: Dead or dying deciduous wood, especially Willows.
About: Also called the Thin-maze Polypore because of the pore pattern underneath the bracket.
Recording: Photo required.

