

MUSHROOM NEWSLETTER

21 July 2010



They're here – as usual bang on time and the signs are this could be another great season (20 July 2010)

Over the past 15 years, I have battled with ways to predict the mushroom harvest. Most are very variable, but the chanterelle is one of the most dependable. In Britain it usually comes up in the third week of July given a modicum of rain.



Look closely in the right spot and they are everywhere

Thus when I went out this morning I was moderately confident of success. Sure enough I very quickly spotted a few buttons in a favourite spot and within moments was seeing them everywhere. These are still buttons and so I've left them to return tomorrow, but the promising signs are that the crop has only just started and is looking very promising. Now is a really good time to get out to promising areas to find new patches. In England and Wales the most likely spots are almost always near young-ish broadleaf trees. Oak, chestnut and hazel coppice is good in the South East while in Wales it is commonest near birch. Everything seems to change in Scotland, however, where it seems to appear almost anywhere – even near conifers (while here in Wales this always means the false chanterelle).



Chanterelles are difficult to find at first – the habitat is critical

Finally, a friend phoned in some excitement at the weekend to report big hauls of field mushrooms on a local hilltop. Last year there was an almost complete failure of this harvest – not so this, apparently. Personally I don't really bother with them (much better to spend time looking for chanterelles, I feel), but if you're a field mushroom fan, now is the time to get out there.



Agaricus species such as these field mushrooms and *A. Macrosporus* are starting to come up too

Good hunting!

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P.S. As always, just a quick reminder that because I loathe junk e-mails, I'd hate to think I was cluttering up your inbox. If at any time you want your name taken off, just let me know with a brief - preferably polite - indication that you want to be removed.