1
Lepiota
Lepiota cristata
Fruiting bodies of typical members of the genus *Lepiota* usually have a cap in which the upper surface has a scaly appearance that becomes less prominant near the cap margin and an annulus (ring) that often can be moved along the stalk. The gills are free (not attached to the top of the stalk). *Lepiota cristata* has a cap with reddish-brown scales and can be found fruiting on the ground in woods and open fields.

2
Fly Agaric
Amanita muscaria
The amanitas are among the most colorful and distinctive of all mushrooms. This group includes some of the most poisonous fungi in the world. *Amanitia muscaria* is a colorful representative normally found on the ground near conifers. It is characterized by a red to yellow-orange colored cap with white scales or warts. This mushroom is also called the fly agaric, a name derived from the fact that it was once used to make fly poison.

3
Shaggy Mane
Coprinus comatus
Members of the genus *Coprinus* are known as the "inky cap" mushrooms. Once the spores are mature, enzymes are produced that cause the gills to turn into an inky fluid. The cap of the shaggy mane is bell-shaped and covered with brown curving scales. This mushroom commonly occurs on the ground either singly or in (sometimes very large) groups. It is usually associated with grassy disturbed sites such as roadsides.

4
Blackish-Red Russula
Russula krombholtzii
The fruiting bodies of russulas are rather fragile, and many of the gills will fracture upon handling. The pigments in the cap leach rapidly, allowing many different color shades of the same species to be seen together. It is easy to see how *Russula krombholtzii* is called the blackish-red russula. Species of *Lactarius* are very similar to the russulas in appearance but produce a milky latex.

5
Bay Bolete
Boletus badius
The boletes are very similar in appearance to the gilled mushrooms, but the fruiting body has a spongy layer of tubes (the openings to which are called pores) under the cap rather than bladelike gills. The attractive bay bolete, *Boletus badius*, has a reddish-brown cap with olive yellow pores and a red stalk. Many boletes are attractive to wildlife, providing food for deer, squirrels, and other rodents.

Because of its extensive forests and diversity of ecological habitats, West Virginia is an exceptionally good place to observe and collect mushrooms and other types of fungi. The structure that we call a mushroom is in reality only the fruiting body of the fungus. The vegetative body consists of a system of threadlike structures called hyphae. A mass of hyphae is known as a mycelium. The information given in this photoguide should enable the beginner to recognize some of the major different types of fungi that occur in West Virginia as well as other parts of the eastern United States. **DO NOT regard any mushroom or other fungus as safe to eat on the basis of what you see or read in this photoguide.**

6
Orange Mycena
Mycena leaiana
Mycenas are among the more attractive of the gilled mushrooms. They can fruit in spectacular and often colorful clusters on decaying wood. The fruiting body of *Mycena leaiana* is a bright orange that tends to fade with age. The caps are sticky and shiny and the gills are reddish-orange. The bright colored clusters of the orange mycena, *Mycena leaiana,* are especially common on decaying beech logs.

7
Collared Earthstar
Geastrum triplex
Earthstars resemble puffballs, but as the fruiting body matures, the outer wall splits and curves back to form a star-like effect, at the same time exposing a spore sac with an opening at the top. In the collared earthstar, *Geastrum triplex,* the round spore sac is surrounded by a bowl-like collar. Fruiting bodies typically occur in late summer, but due to their tough nature, they may last until spring.

8
Red Chanterelle
Cantharellus cinnabarinus
Chanterelles produce fruiting bodies that are funnel- or trumpet shaped, with a depression in the center. The shallow ridges upon which the spores are produced typically extend at least partially down the stalk. Most chanterelles are edible and highly prized. *Cantharellus cinnabarinus,* the red chanterelle, is usually found on the ground in moist woodlands. The entire fruiting body is vermilion to pinkish-red in color but fades in sunlight.

9
Gemmed Puffball
Lycoperdon perlatum
Puffballs produce their spores within the fruiting body. The spores are released through an opening at the top or by the breaking apart of the walls of the fruiting body. The gemmed puffball, *Lycoperdon perlatum*, is very common on the forest floor, especially around decaying wood. Puffballs can range in size from less than an inch to more than a foot.

10
Dog Stinkhorn
Mutinus caninus
Stinkhorns produce their spores in a mass of foul-smelling slime that forms a covering over the upper portion of the fruiting body. Flies and other insects are attracted to the smell and disperse the spores that stick to their bodies. The dog stinkhorn, *Mutinus caninus,* can be found in humus-rich soils. It also can occur on mulch in gardens or flowerbeds and around compost piles.

11
Yellow Morel
Morchella esculenta
The morels are among the most highly prized edible fungi. The fruiting body consists of a highly convoluted conical cap with irregularly arranged pits on a hollow stalk. The yellow morel, *Morchella esculenta*, like virtually all other morels, appears in the spring of the year. It is found on the ground in open forests, old orchards and in areas that have been recently burned. **Beware of the similar looking but poisonous false morels.**

12
White-egg Bird's Nest
Crubibulum laeve
Bird's nest fungi are so distinctive that they are not likely to be confused with anything else. The fruiting body resembles a miniature bird's nest containing eggs. The "eggs" are packets of spores that are dispersed by the force of falling raindrops. The fruiting bodies are rather tough and may persist for quite some time. They are commonly found on decaying woody debris and on landscaping and gardening mulch.

13
Coral Tooth Mushroom
Hericium coralloides
The tooth fungi bear their spores on tooth-like spines instead of gills or pores. Tooth fungi are quite easy to identify as a result of this unique characteristic. They can resemble boletes, bracket fungi, coral fungi, or gilled mushrooms. The coral tooth mushroom can be found on old logs and stumps of hardwoods such as maple, beech, and oak. It appears as a white to gray mass with many pendant, toothed, spines.

14
Tree-Ear Fungus
Auricularia auricula
The fruiting bodies of most jelly fungi have the general appearance of a gelatinous matrix. They can take the form of a globulose mass or appear to be coral-, flattened leaf-, or ear-shaped. The tree-ear fungus, *Auricularia auricula*, has the general shape and rubbery feel of an actual ear. It can occur year round. The fruiting bodies of jelly fungi shrivel up during extended dry periods, only to revive when wet conditions return.

15
Crown-tipped Coral
Clavicorona pyxidata
The coral fungi are characterized by having a fruiting body consisting of solitary or multiple upright branches. Coral fungi occur on the ground or on decaying logs. The crown coral, *Clavicorona pyxidata*, is easily recognized by the candelabra-like appearance of the branching tips. The fruiting body varies in color from white to light brown. Deer are particularly fond of this group of fungi.

16
Stalked Scarlet Cup
Sarcoscypha occidentalis
The cup fungi are usually rather small and thus often overlooked. However, a few are fairly conspicuous. The stalked scarlet cup, *Sarcoscypha occidenalis*, has a bright scarlet cup-shaped fruiting body on a short white to reddish stalk. This tiny fungus is only ¼- ½ inch across. The fruiting bodies commonly occur on decaying twigs and small branches on the forest floor.

17
Jack O'Lantern
Omphalotus olearius
The Jack o'lantern is a very common mushroom in West Virginia. An orange to orange-yellow cap and gills that descend partially down the stalk are the distinguishing characteristics. It usually appears in clusters on decaying wood, especially oak. Gills of fresh specimens of *Omphalotus olearius* give off a greenish glow in the dark. **The jack o'lantern mushroom is poisonous**, causing severe gastrointestinal distress for several hours, though rarely fatal.

18
Chicken of the Woods
Laetoporus sulphureus
A polypore has pores beneath the cap much like a botete. However, the fruiting body is usually tough, corky or woody. Polypores occur on wood and are usually somewhat shelf-like. A few of the polypores are present year round, although they are not producing spores most of the time. The chicken of the woods fungus, *Laetiporus sulphureus*, has a bright orange to yellow upper surface, and a yellow lower surface that appears almost smooth.