

GENERAL SCIENCE
FUNGI

Fungi are plantlike living things that **do not contain chlorophyll**. Fungi do not move from place to place like plants. Unlike plants, fungi cannot make its own food. To get energy, fungi must take in food. Four types of common fungi are mushrooms, mushrooms, mold, yeast and mildew.

Fungi need **moisture** and **warmth** to grow. Mushrooms grow on the ground, on fallen logs and on live trees. Mushrooms growing on live trees are parasites. Mushrooms growing on fallen logs act as decomposers.

People use some mushrooms as food, but some mushrooms are deadly poison. Mushrooms sold in stores are safe to eat; however, you should not touch or eat wild mushrooms. **Mold** grows on bread, fruit, or in any damp, warm area. The mold that grows on orange is used to produce the antibiotic called penicillin.





Yeast is used to make bread rise. When the yeast uses sugar, carbon dioxide gas is formed. The carbon dioxide makes bread rise. Mildew grows on damp cloth, leather or on plants.

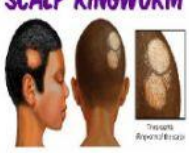


Mildew growing on leaves can damage the plant.

Some fungi are **helpful**, but, others are **harmful**.

- Helpful fungi break down decaying matter (mushroom). Many products are made with fungi. Fungi help to give cheese its flavor, color and texture.





Some types of fungi cause human diseases that affect the skin. **Athlete's foot** is caused by a fungus that grows between the toes. **Ringworm** and **shifting clouds** are also caused by a fungus.

- Most fungi have **one cell**, but mushrooms have many cells.
- Plants grow from seeds, but **fungi** grow from **spores**.