



KING STROPHARIA SPAWN INSTRUCTIONS:

Thanks for purchasing King Stropharia spawn from Mr. Mercy's Mushrooms!

Here's what you need to know:

- King Stropharia (*stropharia rugosoannulata*) is a mushroom that grows well in outdoor beds, as well as in garden paths. It loves growing with woodchips, especially woodchips from hardwoods (deciduous trees, including birch, cottonwood, maple, fruit trees, etc). If hardwood chips are unavailable, some softwoods will work (Douglas Fir is the best), as will straw.
- Each bag of spawn will cover an area of 50-100 square feet (One 5'x10 to 10'x10 bed). **Smaller beds will fruit faster and have a higher chance of success.**

Creating your King Stropharia bed:

1. Assemble materials. You will need enough wood chips to cover your bed to a depth of 1-2". Cardboard (non-waxed and non-coloured) can be helpful as a weed barrier and as a home for the spawn as it starts to grow.
2. Place cardboard (if you're using it) over the entire area of the bed you are creating. Wet thoroughly.
3. Open bag of King Stropharia spawn, crumble up, and mix with woodchips in a separate container like a wheelbarrow or bin.
4. Spread inoculated woodchips evenly over the bed. Wet until saturated.
5. Water often (every few days, or when dry to the touch), especially in first two weeks, and periodically after that point.

Harvesting your mushrooms:

1. Mushrooms can fruit as soon as 2-3 months after creating a bed. A heavy rain (or watering) can stimulate fruiting.
2. King Stropharia can get big! However, it has fairly soft flesh and is susceptible to insect damage if left too long before harvest. Pick mushrooms before caps become flat, and when veil (skin on underside of cap) is still intact or has just broken.
3. **Make sure the mushrooms you have are King Stropharia!** Although unlikely, it is possible that other mushrooms could grow in your bed (just as it's possible for weeds to grow in a garden). King Stropharia is easily recognized by a large red-purple cap, off-white stem, purple-grey gills (blades) on underside of cap, and veil that leaves a cogwheel shaped ring on the upper stem. **If in doubt, consult ID guide below, or email us to confirm the mushroom's identity.**

Tips:

- Making a King Stropharia bed in a garden path or adjacent to other garden beds can make watering easy and make checking on your mushrooms part of your gardening routine.
- When creating a bed, it is best to use fairly fresh woodchips or straw. Older materials can already have other competitor fungi growing in them, making it harder for the King Stropharia to become established.
- Starting a new patch is simple! Just take a few scoops of woodchips from an existing patch and mix with more in a new bed.
- Stropharia need lots of food! It's a good idea to add fresh woodchips yearly to your patch. This way they can become a perennial in your garden and generate new soil by breaking down chips into dirt.
- To check on the progress of your new bed, gently dig around and check for white mycelium (the mushroom root system). King Stropharia mycelium is thick and ropey, with a pleasant, earthy smell.

King Stropharia Identification:

- Medium to large size (up to 8" across).
- Cap burgundy coloured, fading with age, with white fibrils when young (see pic. 3).
- Gills (plates on underside of cap) purple-gray, darkening in age (see pic. 1). Gills connected to stem.
- Spore print purple-grey to purple-black. To obtain a spore print, place the cap of a mushroom on a sheet of white paper with the gills facing down. Cover, and leave overnight. Observe colour of spores deposited on the paper.
- Veil covering gills of immature mushrooms, forming a prominent ring on the upper third of the stem. Distinct cogwheel pattern on veil (see pic. 1)
- Stem thick and slightly yellow-tinted below veil, tapering outward to wide base.
- Thick rosey white mycelium attached to base of mushrooms.
- Smell mild, slightly like potatoes.
- Growing in inoculated beds, or in adjacent soils.

If all of the above characteristics are not noted or there is any doubt about the identity of your mushroom, please contact us, and we'll be happy to help you!



Enjoy your mushroom growing experience, and please contact robin@mrmercysmushrooms.com with any questions or comments!