GROW OYSTER MUSHROOMS IN YOUR BACKYARD

Locating my garden

You want to find a full-shade location that's easy to irrigate. Create separate beds so I can manage the amount of water. Add fencing or cover the area to keep pets away.

What do I need?

Cardboard: This is your base. It will prevent weeds from growing and keeps the base humid.

Natural wood chips - This is the food source. These must be natural and can't be pine. Preferably hardwood, but sawdust or straw is ok.

Mushroom spawn - This is the mushroom inoculant that you'll sow into the new mushroom bed.

Straw - to place on top of the bed once you finish inoculating.

Irrigation - Irrigate 4 times a day for 5 minutes. Mushrooms like it damp and humid. Don't let the bed dry up or get too wet.
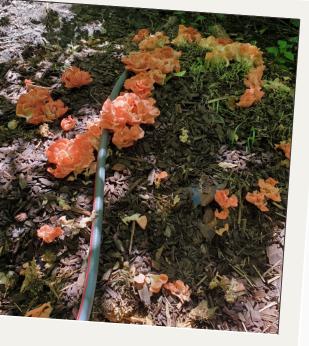
How do I inoculate?

Step 1 - Place cardboard as the base.

Step 2 - Spread lots of wood chips evenly covering the cardboard

Step 3 - Spread spawn evenly by breaking it with your hands and spreading the grains evenly on the wood chips.

Step 4 - Cover the spawn with more wood chips.

Step 5 - Cover with straw. The straw holds and conserves moisture.

Step 6 - Give the bed a good soak and remember to keep it damp!

Whats Next?

Oysters are fast growing mushrooms. With proper care you can harvest mushrooms in as little as 1 month but expect it to take ~2months. You can check your bed by digging 6" and looking for mycelium. Mycelium looks like a white web and means that your inoculation was a success! It's just a matter of time until mushrooms fruit. Harvest your mushroom when its cap is about to completely straighten.

What to cook?

Here's a few of my favorite ways to use oyster mushrooms in my kitchen:

Creamy mushroom soup
Mushroom gravy
Mushroom sauce
Risotto with mushrooms
Pasta with mushrooms
Mushroom pizza

Grilled cheese and mushroom sandwiches
Mushroom burgers
Sautéed mushrooms
Grilled mushrooms
Mushroom wild rice

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