

usually six weeks from the time the spawn is planted until the "mushrooms" appear.

When the spawn has gathered sufficient food it then begins to form the fruit bodies or "mushrooms." (See Fig. 2). These at first are tiny white balls, smaller than a pin head. They grow rapidly in size, and when they are as large as a small marble one can recognize the main parts. In the top will be the cap, with the gills underneath, protected by the veil, while the lower part is the stalk or stipe. When the parts have all been formed the "mushroom" enlarges rapidly and pushes up out of the ground. Very frequently the stalk elongates so rapidly when the fruit body is nearly grown that the cap may be pushed up out of the ground during the night, so that some people have thought that these mushrooms grew in a night.

WHEN AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR MUSHROOMS

Mushrooms may be found from the time the ground thaws out in the spring until it freezes up in the fall. They are most plentiful after prolonged wet weather or after warm rains when the days are warm and the nights fairly cool and damp.



Fig. 2. Button Stage of Common or Cultivated Mushroom. Natural Size (Original).

It is best to look for them on cool, dewy mornings, a day or two after warm, heavy rains.

They grow any place where there is plenty of decaying vegetable or animal material which is not too much disturbed by cultivation. Some kinds grow in rich, well-manured lawns, others in pastures, several varieties along the roadside. Some delicious kinds grow in barnyards. Many grow best in the woods, some in the leaf mold on the forest floor, some on stumps, some on fallen logs and a few on standing trees.

TO BE ON THE WILD MUSHROOMS.

There are in Ontario at least 150 kinds of fleshy fungi, which are large enough to attract the attention of a person collecting mushrooms for table use. However, not all of these can be used, as some of them are poisonous. Four of these are deadly poisonous and four are reputed mildly poisonous and a few, which occur only occasionally, have no known properties.

When one is gathering mushrooms one of the first questions he is asked is, "How do you tell mushrooms from road stools?" This question implies that the inquirer thinks of mushrooms as edible and "road stools" as poisonous. This