

DIFFERENTIATION OF EDIBLE AND POISONOUS MUSHROOMS

| Feature | Edible | Poisonous |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Gill | They have gills attached to the cap and not to the stalk. Moreover, the gills on the cap of a young edible mushroom cap are usually pink in colour. However, the pink colour changes as the mushroom mature to brown or black. | They have gills attached to the stalk. Moreover, they have white gills that do not change colour throughout their entire lifecycle. |
| Ring or annulus | Mushrooms without rings or annulus around the stalk are usually edible. However, there are few exceptions like <i>Agaricus campestris</i> , an edible mushroom having ring around the stalk | Mushrooms having rings or annulus around the stalk are usually poisonous. However, there are few exceptions like <i>Amanita virosee</i> , a poisonous mushroom lacking ring around the stalk. |
| Stalk | Mushrooms with slender stalks are usually edible. | Mushrooms with swollen stalks are usually poisonous. |
| Scales | The cap lacks scales or warts. | The cap possesses scales or warts. |
| Colour | They are usually white or grey. | They are usually colourfull. |
| Smell | They are usually pleasant smelling. | They are usually bad smelling. |
| Colour change | They do not turn green or purple when cut. | They become green or purple when cut. |
| Latex | Latex is absent. | They may contain latex. |
| Cooking | The colour of silver spoon used for cooking remain unchanged. | The colour of silver spoon used for cooking turns black. |