

Mushrooms are growing in my houseplants! What causes this, and how can I prevent it?

Small yellow mushrooms occasionally show up in the pots of houseplants. This fungus is often *Lepiota lutea*, sometimes called the yellow parasol or flower pot parasol. These are about 1 to 3 inches tall with 1 to 2-inch oval or bell-shaped caps. They may be singles or in clusters.

The thread-like body, called a mycelium, could have been in the potting mix or a spore could have floated through the air and landed in the pot, starting the fungal colony. These mushrooms do not harm living plants and do not need to be removed for the plants sake. **However, these mushrooms are poisonous to people and animals, so if pets or small children are nearby, it would be wise to remove the mushrooms as they appear.**

Fungicide treatments are generally not effective against mushrooms. Repotting the plant may not help as any spores left on the roots will produce mushrooms in the new soil.



How should I store my tulip bulbs during the summer?

If relocating bulbs from one place to another is necessary, or if a planting has become too crowded and stopped blooming, dig up the bulbs only after the foliage has faded. Bulbs dug and moved before fading may cause plants not to bloom for several years.



If bulbs are purchased before planting time, keep them in a cool, dry, well ventilated place at a temperature of 50 to 70 degrees. Temperatures of higher than 70 degrees will damage the flower inside spring-flowering bulbs.