

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Food and Consumer Safety Section

DOCUMENT CODE	RF170301
DATE	March 3, 2017
SUBJECT	Wild mushrooms

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines on how to safely sell or serve wild mushrooms at the retail level.

Question

What is the recommended approval procedure for wild mushrooms to be sold or served at the retail level?

Answer

Local health authorities are strongly urged to utilize the following procedures to enforce section 3-201.16 (A) of the "Food Code," under ARM 37.110.265, regarding wild mushrooms. However, local jurisdictions have the authority to reject a wild mushroom retailer application, if grounds for denial exist, as allowed in MCA 50-50-204. These guidelines do not apply to cultivated mushrooms from a controlled environment. The Food and Consumer Safety Section and the Department of Agriculture do not recognize wild mushrooms as meeting the definition of a raw agricultural commodity under MCA 50-50-102 (17)(a), which implies cultivation.

The Food and Consumer Safety Section recommends that each person engaged in sales, service, or provision of wild mushrooms to consumers procure a retail food establishment license from the department. In order to obtain a license the applicant must be able to demonstrate to the local health department or regulatory authority that they harvest wild mushrooms according to law, only harvest mushrooms listed on the approved list, log all harvested mushrooms, properly label packaged mushrooms, and that the harvester is trained in identifying mushroom species. Below are the department's recommendations for documenting and tracking each of these provisions.

License: persons engaged in sales or service of wild mushrooms as a retail food establishment, or other persons involved in providing wild mushrooms directly to consumers must procure an annual license from the department.

Harvesting: wild mushrooms harvested in Montana under this subchapter from any public or private land must be obtained in full compliance with the law;

(a) state land: wild mushrooms harvested in excess of the personal harvest allowance for commercial purposes from any state public land must receive and keep for inspection or investigation purposes written harvest permission from the Montana Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Trust Land Management Division;

(b) federal land: wild mushrooms harvested in excess of the personal harvest allowance for commercial purposes from any federal public land must receive and keep for inspection or investigation purposes a Commercial Use Permit from the United States Forest Service, you may contact your nearest forest service office for this information;

(c) tribal land: wild mushrooms harvested in excess of the personal harvest allowance for commercial purposes from any tribal land must receive and keep for inspection or investigation purposes written documentation of harvest permission from the appropriate tribal authority.

Approved list: only the following wild mushrooms or their equivalent may be offered to consumers, and proper identification is the responsibility of the legal licensee. This list was compiled in consultation with Montana State University:

- (a) black trumpet mushroom (yet unnamed Montana species similar to the *Craterellus fallax* group);
- (b) chanterelle mushroom (*Cantharellus roseocanus*, and *C. subalbidus*);
- (c) clustered blue chanterelle mushroom (*Polyozellus multiplex*)
- (d) comb tooth mushroom (*Hericium coralloides*, formerly known as *Hericium ramosum*), and *H. erinaceus*;
- (e) king bolete mushroom (*Boletus edulis*);
- (f) lobster mushroom (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*);
- (g) morel mushrooms (*Morchella* species, including, but not limited to: black morel [*Morchella elata* group], and yellow morel [*Morchella americana*, formerly known as *esculenta*]);
- (h) orange-latex milky mushroom, saffron milk camp (*Lactarius deliciosus* group);
- (i) oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus pulmonarius*, and *P. populinus*);
- (j) sweet tooth mushroom (*Hydnus repandum* formerly *Dentinum repandum*), and *H. umbilicatum*;
- (k) trumpet chanterelle mushroom (*Craterellus tubaeformis*, formerly known as *Cantharellus tubaeformis*);
- (l) white matsutake mushroom (*Tricholoma magnivelare*, formerly known as *Armillaria ponderosa* and *Tricholoma ponderosum*).
- (m) Oregon white truffles (*Tuber gibbosum*, *Tuber oregonense*), Oregon black truffle (*Leucangium carthusianum*)
- (n) mushrooms not included on this list should be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Food and Consumer Safety Section in consultation with the local regulatory authority.

Harvest log: each and every wild mushroom lot will be documented on a harvest log to include the following information:

- (a) year and day of harvest;
- (b) scientific name (Latin binomial) of the wild mushrooms identifying the genus and species of the food;
- (c) common name of the wild mushrooms ;
- (d) county name in which the wild mushrooms were harvested;
- (e) approximate quantity of wild mushrooms harvested for each lot;
- (f) written documentation that the area in which the wild mushroom lot was harvested was not subjected to the application of any wildland fire chemicals (retardants, foams, or water enhancers) listed by the United States Forest Service within 90 days of the date of harvest;

(g) written documentation that the area in which the wild mushroom lot was harvested was not subjected to the application of any manufactured chemical containing hydrazine within 30 days of the date of harvest;

(h) full legal name, job title, current address, and current telephone number of the individual who identified the wild mushrooms ;

(i) name of the legal licensee.

Package labeling: wild mushrooms packaged as individual consumer commodities, or contained as bulk food items must comply with applicable labeling requirements of 37.110.101(1)(j), ARM, and labeled or disclosed with the following additional information for the retailer, or other persons involved in providing food directly to consumers:

(a) scientific name (Latin binomial) of the wild mushroom with the genus and species clearly marked on the package or container;

(b) common name of the wild mushroom clearly marked on the package or container.

Training: the legal licensee must create and keep for inspection and investigation purposes written documentation that the legal licensee has determined the mushroom identifier is qualified through:

(a) formal academic coursework and field coursework; or

(b) practical field experience; or

(c) a combination of subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph;

to correctly identify edible Montana wild mushrooms and poisonous Montana wild mushrooms. The documentation must also comply with the harvest log subsection of this document;

(d) The local regulatory authority may create a wild mushroom identification training regulation that is specific to wild mushrooms that are within their jurisdiction.

Legal references

ARM 37.110.265/3-102.16 (A), MCA 50-50-102 (17)(a), MCA 50-50-204

Training Documentation MODEL

Qualified Mushroom Identifier

Johnathon Bowman Goode, lead picker
123 Street
Your Town, MT 59601
Telephone 406.123.4567

Legal licensee

Jonny B. Goode Morels

Training

- A. Academic and field coursework
- B. Practical field experience
- ✓ C. Both A and B

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