



DOWEL SPAWN INSTRUCTIONS:

Thanks for purchasing Dowel Spawn from Mr. Mercy's Mushrooms!

Here's what you need to know:

- Each bag of Mr. Mercy's Dowel Spawn contains 100 hardwood dowels inoculated with the mycelium (mushroom "roots") of the species of your choice. Refer to front label for species.
- Each bag of spawn will inoculate 2-3 logs of roughly 3-5' long and 4-8" in diameter. The precise amount needed depends on the spacing of drilled holes (see below).

Materials Needed:

- Freshly cut **Hardwood** logs or stumps. "Hardwood" refers to deciduous trees, and some common choices include Birch, Cottonwood, Maple, Oak, and wood from fruit trees. Most broadleaf trees will work, though some species have a preferred host. **Conifers (pine, cedar, spruce) are not generally suitable for use as mushroom logs.** Ideally, logs should be cut in the colder half of the year when the leaves have fallen, and should be from healthy trees with intact bark and no evidence of insect or fungal damage.
- A drill and 3/16" bit. A stopper on the bit set to 1 1/4" will ensure that all holes are drilled to the same depth. Corded drills work much better than cordless, as batteries will drain quickly.
- A hammer.
- Wax for sealing inoculation points. We prefer a food-grade and environmentally friendly wax such as beeswax. Soy wax or paraffin waxes can also be used.
- Paintbrush for spreading wax.
- Heat source and pot for melting wax. If doing inoculations close to home, an inside kitchen can be used. Otherwise, a small campstove or propane burner works well.

Method:

1. Drill holes in logs or stumps. We will drill holes spaced 6-8" apart, and to a depth of about 1.5" (a stopper on your drill bit can be helpful). After drilling a row of holes along the length of a log, rotate the log and start a new row 6-8' from the first, but offset, to form a diamond pattern of drill holes. Repeat until the log is covered evenly in holes. If using a stump, drill first around the circumference at 6-8" intervals, then repeat with an offset pattern. Drill holes in top surface of stump as well.
2. Open bag of dowels. Position a single dowel directly over a hole and tap gently with a hammer until the top of the dowel is flush with the surface of the bark. Repeat until all drilled holes are filled.
3. Heat up wax until fully melted. Dip paintbrush in wax and paint over each hole. Paint the holes on top of the log, then rotate until a new row of holes is facing upwards. This stops the wax from dripping.

Caring For Your Log:

1. Place inoculated logs in a well-shaded location, preferably close to a water source. Keep logs close to the ground, but slightly elevated (on a pallet or raised on timbers), as you wait for the mycelium to colonize the log.
2. Periodically check on your log. If it seems dry (lift it up to check weight if you are unsure), it can be watered. Either set up hose or sprinkler, or immerse log in water to hydrate. Check for signs of white mycelium on ends of log. If you see white patches, the log may be colonized and ready to fruit!
3. **Most logs will need to sit for up to a year before producing mushrooms.** The time it takes is influenced by the species of mushroom, the species of wood, and the size of the log relative to the spacing of the drilled holes. If it has been over a year and your log has not fruited, try a 24 hour soak in water to provoke fruiting.
4. **Pick your mushrooms!** Once mushrooms are ready to fruit, they may continue to produce periodically for several years to come. Logs should be located somewhere that is visited often, so that spontaneous fruitings aren't missed (some mushrooms will appear, ripen, and rot in just a few weeks). Multiple logs can be stacked "log cabin" style for easy harvest.
5. Experiment! There are many other techniques for log and stump growing, such as creating log "rafts", "totem poles" or buried logs. Please email robin@mrmercysmushrooms.com for many more tips, suggestions, and links to helpful resources. **Happy growing!**