

# Fungi

## Fungi is important

- Life on Earth would not exist without fungi!
- Plants would not be able to grow without fungi to deliver water and nutrients.
- The world's ecosystems would soon run out of nutrients without the recycling activities of fungi.

Source: <https://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/about-us>



Scarlet elfcup by Mark Robinson

## Fungi facts

- A fungus is any member of the group of eukaryotic organisms that includes microorganisms such as yeasts and molds, as well as the more familiar mushrooms. These organisms are classified as a kingdom, fungi, which is separate from the other eukaryotic life kingdoms of plants and animals.
- One centimetre square of woodland soil contains one thousand centimetres of fungal mycelium.
- At least 70 species of fungi can glow in the dark.
- The largest living organism is a Dark Honey fungus growing underground in Oregon, USA, which has spread over 3.4 square miles.

Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fungus>

<https://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/about-us>

## How Wildlife Trusts help

- Managing protected nature reserves where fungi can flourish and biodiversity is protected and encouraged.

- Running events and courses to help raise understanding and appreciation of these fascinating organisms
- Avon Wildlife Trust has a [fungal foray on Dolebury Warren on 13 October](#).
- Devon Wildlife Trust's [Hawkswood reserve is great for spotting fungi](#) and a [fungus foray takes place on 3 November](#) on Exmoor.
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is [running a fascinating fungi course on 18 October](#).
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust [has a fungi foray on 25 October at Echo Lodge Meadows](#).

## How people can help

- Membership helps provide vital income towards protecting nature reserves where biodiversity can flourish.
- Learn more about fungi this autumn by going on a Wildlife Trust walk or course in your area.

## Other resources

- <https://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/resources>
- <https://www.ukfungusday.co.uk/event>
- <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org>



Fly agaric by Mike Snell