# MU.



A typical three specimen cluster of P. foenisecii. An unknown insect has gone sailing on a dose taken from the apex of the largest specimen in the cluster.



Dark capped P. foenisecii. Three specimens are in a cluster. Two others are grouped near the cluster. P. foenisecii fruits in large groups composed of clusters and individuals. These groups may form a "colony" extending up to 100 square ft. Panaeolus foenisecii var. invertus (Lynus), an adaptation to lawn culture. The cap never opens to deposit the spores on the wind. At maturity the cap turns horizontal to the stem awaiting the lawn mower to shred the spore laden cap into natural "spawn" which efficiently expands the colony. P. foenisecii invertus is quite potent and occasionally exhibits bluing on the lower 1/3 of the stem.

AMERICA'S S H

**Magic Mushrooms** 

Classic bell shaped Panaeolus foenisecii with dark lined radial margin.



## On Your Front Lawn Photos and Story by Brolyn



M

Panaeolus foenisecii pair with white fringed margin after the dark radial line.

Summer days are long and hot; nights balmy. Restless souls are eager. Harvest is nearing, the farmer will tell you. You think, "So what. I'd rather be sailing." But the sailing you refer to isn't on the ocean. No, it's on the Cosmic Sea. And the summer breeze carries your mind to fantasies in exotic places where magic mushrooms grow. Alas, the reverie ends too soon, leaving you with wishes unfulfilled... Adventure... Exotic places... Fantasies...

Your quest begins in the community park. The magic mushroom is happily fruiting in the well-kept park lawn. Seek out the nearest park where the grounds keeper is diligent and proud to nurture the greens. There you will find America's harvest mushroom, Panaeolus Foenisecii, sometimes called the haymaker's mushroom by those who know.

Before Gordon Wasson went "Seeking the Magic Mushroom" continued on page 55

Common solitary specimen with hemispherical cap and dark lined margin. Note the rusty cinnamon color of cap apex.

continued from page 41 down Mexico-way in 1957, the effects of psilocybin/psilocin found in the Mexican psilocybes had already been documented in the USA. The cause was several members of the Panaeolus species. Louis C.C. Krieger, mycologist and "the finest painter of North American fungi" (1), published The Mushroom Handbook in 1935. At that time, mushroom poisoning was divided into five types: gastro-intestinal, choleriform, nerve-affecting, and cerebral. Here's what Krieger wrote about the cerebral type of mushroom poisoning: "The transient symptoms appear shortly after the meal. They are exhilaration, staggering gait, and queer disturbances of vision. The patients are soon normal again. Causative mushrooms: various species of the genus Panaeolus." Under the heading, Black-spored mushrooms, he wrote, "Panaeolus species look harmless enough, but it is well to keep them out of the cooking utensils for, though not violently poisonous, they can be the cause of considerable. momentary anxiety. The effects of the poison become evident almost instantaneously. The symptoms are not unlike alcohol intoxication. Conspicuous are failure of muscular coordination. difficulty in standing, inability to walk, drowsiness, lack of control of the emotions, bloodshot eves, dilated pupils, incoherent or inappropriate speech (the afflicted laughing inordinately at his own foolish remarks), and visions of dancing, wobbly furniture, combined with glorious color combinations."

Had Albert Hofmann known about this in 1935, he may well have first isolated psilocybin and psilocin from Panaeolus and named the two entheogenic (2) compounds panaeolin and panaeoin.

Before you dash off to your nearest park greens prospecting for the ineffable, it is wise to learn what other types of mushrooms may be growing in that lawn and how to tell the difference. The easiest method

for a beginner to distinguish the different genera is identification by spore print.

Panaeolus and Psilocybe are very closely related genera belonging to the Agaricaceae family of the sub-class Basidiomycetes. In simple language this means Basidiomycetes produce spores four to a cluster on a club shaped structure. Agaricaceae produce the four spored club called the basidium on gill surfaces emanating on the underside of the mushroom pilus or cap. The Agaricaceae family includes the commercial mushroom, Agaricus bisporus, found in the produce section of most supermarkets. Buy one and study the underside of the cap to familiarize yourself with gill structures.

Once you know what mushroom gills look like, never consider a field specimen for tripping that has no gills. Panaeolus and Psilocybe are gill fungi. Also forget about the blue staining characteristic to identify psilocybin/psilocin producing mushrooms. Some non-gilled mushrooms exhibit the bluing phenomenon. Panaeolus species rarely, if ever, blue--especially Panaeolus foenisecii and Panaeolus subbalteatus, the two most common psilocybin/ psilocin producing Panaeoli. Instead, take a spore print when you find a likely specimen.

Gilled mushrooms are commonly classed by spore print color. Panaeolus and Psilocybe are included in class IV: with the spore print dark reddish chocolate, purple-brown, brownish purple, grevish purple, purplish black, or black.

Panaeolus foenisecii spores are a very dark, purplish, smoky brown. Panaeolus subbalteatus spores are purplish black. It is difficult for a beginner to distinguish between P. foenisecii and P. subbalteatus. P. subbalteatus grows on dung as well as in lawns. P. foenisecii grows in lawns and in well manured gardens under broad-leafed vegetables, but

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## MUSHROOMS

### continued from page 55

never on dung. This sounds confusing, but you are confining the hunt solely to lawns.

The brown to black spored mushrooms other than Panaeolus likely to be found on lawns are several species of the genera Agricus and Coprinus.

Agricus species look similar to the commercial mushroom and are rather large compared to the Panaeolus species. Most are edible, but for the purposes of this discussion avoid them.

Some species of Coprinus may also be found in lawns. They are not poisonous, but deliquesce or liquify on ripening profuse sweating.

Entoloma sericeum has brownish salmon color spores. It is said to be edible. Avoid it.

When taking a mushroom spore print for color class identification remove the pilus (cap) from the stipe (stem) of a mature specimen. Place the cap on a sheet of clean white paper and leave for one hour or more on a horizontal surface. Then lift the cap from the paper and study the color of the spore print deposited on the paper. Use supplemental lighting if necessary in order to determine the spore color.

This method is simple, but it

## Panaeolus foenisecii is one of the four most common lawn-inhabiting mushrooms.

of the black spores. Avoid them. DO NOT wander out of the open lawns into the forest looking for mushrooms. Confusion and death await the novice foolhardy enough to eat mushrooms gathered from the woods.

Panaeolus foenisecii is one of the four must common lawn-inhabiting mushrooms. The other three species, Marasmius oreades, Clitocybe dealbata, and Entoloma sericeum, have spore prints of color classes different than Panaeolus.

Marasmuis oreades, commonly called "fairy ring mushroom," has white spores. It is edible, but it is best to avoid all white spored mushrooms. The deadly Amanita verna (destroying angel) and Amanita phalloides (death cup) can be found in lawns under conifers. Both have white spores.

Clitocybe dealbata has white spores and is poisonous, causing disagreeable cases of produces a "dirty" spore print unsuitable for germinating spores for pure culture stock innocula. However, save the spore print by folding the paper, spore side in, and place it in a zip-lock plastic baggie. Store it in a refrigerator.

Panaeolus spores are never reddish or light colored. They are always very dark purplish brown to black. Spore print identification must be used in conjunction with physical comparison of a fresh specimen to the established key which details the size, shape, and color of the specimen as well as the growth habit and habitat.

#### Panaeolus foenisecii

**Cap:** 13/32" to 1 3/16" wide, variable in shape, bluntly rounded cone shaped to hemispherical with an incurved margin when young; surface smooth, moist but not sticky, occasionally with a dark radially lined margin when moist; overall

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HIGH TIMES . 59

## MUSHROOMS

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color is variable, dull cinnamon or gravish brown to dark smoky reddish brown, can be lighter or darker.

Gills: moderately close to almost far apart, broad, bowed out near the margin, rounded where they touch the stem; gill faces are pale chocolate brown to warm brown initially. becoming darkly mottled, finally dark smoky brown with age: spore print is very dark purplish brown.

Stem: 1 1/2" to 3 5/32" tall by 5/64" to 9/16" wide, straight to slightly wavy, hollow, brittle, fragile, rigid; surface sometimes has faint longitudinal fibers furrowed or lined in a twisted manner: overall color is almost white to pale brownish grey, pale toward the top, dingy brown below, sometimes with a reddish tinge overall.

Habit & Habitat: scattered to grouped in large numbers, very common on lawns. pastures, fields and other grassy places, especially after rains.

Season: May through November or until frost.

**Comments:** specimens collected from Seattle tested negative for psilocybin/psilocin (Enos, 1972); work done by Lynus, 1975, indicates psilocybin/psilocin production by this species is temperature and nutrient dependent; optimal temperature range is 65-78 degrees F, generous amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus are required, but not enough to burn lawn grasses.

#### Panaeolus subbalteatus:

Cap: 51/64" to 2 5/32" wide, hemispherical when very young, occasionally flattened on top appearing hat-shaped; surface smooth and moist, slightly sticky when very young, slightly to decidedly wrinkled or even pitted either in the central portion or overall when mature; color is pinkish cinnamon to dull reddish cinnamon brown when young, becoming dark reddish brown to partly blackish brown in maturity with a darker

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## MUSTROOMS

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radially lined margin when moist.

Gills: close or occasionally almost close, moderately broad, bowed out, adnate (squarely attached to stem), inserted in the stem; edges are grevish to white, gill faces are dull reddish brown or reddish grey, becoming blackish mottled from an uneven ripening of the spores; spore print is black, but may have a purplish hue.

Stem: 1 9/16" to 3 15/16" long by 5/64" to 13/32" wide, even or tapering to the base, hollow. fleshy, stringy, brittle, may be split vertically; surface vertically grooved especially at the top; overall color is the same as the cap but paler, darker in the lower portion and rarely stained blue.

Habit & Habitat: grouped to clustered, occasionally growing in rings; found on open ground (especially if freshly manured), lawns, compost of all kinds, dung, manure, and sometimes in commercial mushroom houses.

Season: spring to fall. Comments: common throughout the country.

Generally speaking. Panaeolus foenisecii is smaller, more fragile and lighter in weight than P. subbalteatus.

Once you are certain you have found Panaeolus foenisecii (or P. subbalteatus), collect enough for that voyage on the Cosmic Sea, but don't take every last mushroom. Leave some to re-seed (spore) the habitat.

Panaeolus foenisecii mushrooms are quite small. Fifty mushrooms is a good starting dose. This may seem like a lot, but it's only a double handful weighing about as much as three or four large Panaeolus subbalteatus or two large Psilocybe cubensis mushrooms.

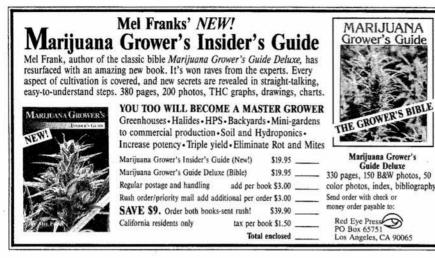
The best way to consume the fruit is to puree the dose with tomato juice. The resulting concoction is murky black, but the flavor is agreeable. Fresh mushroom salad is also a tasty preparation.

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### MUSHROOM continued from page 65

If you have a lawn at home it is possible to seed it with Panaeolus foenisecii (or P. subbalteatus) spores from the print you saved in the refrigerator. First take a good look at your lawn. Is it deep green and healthy? If not, water it regularly (at night is best to promote mushroom fruiting), but don't overwater. Fertilize it with high nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizer according to directions supplied with the fertilizer. Mow it regularly. When your lawn is lush and beautiful. take that spore print and scrape the spores off the paper into the grass in a section of the lawn that gets some shade. Then be patient and continue to take good care of your lawn. Your neighbors will approve and smile at your diligence.

Happy sailing.

#### Notes:

1. Mushroom Handbook, Louis C.C. Krieger, p. V.

2. Entheogens, Journal of Psychedelic Drugs, Vol 11 (1979), R. Gordon Wasson et al, "We, therefore, propose a new term that would be appropriate for describing states of shamanic and ecstatic possession induced by ingestion of mind-altering drugs. In Greek the word entheos means literally 'god (theos) within .... the Greek root gen-, which denotes the action of 'becoming', this word results in the term that we are proposing: entheogen."

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