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Fungus of the Month - October 2006



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Morchella elata

Morchella elata belongs to a group of fungi commonly called Morels. Morels are found throughout the world, and in Europe and North America they are regarded as one of the best species of edible fungi. Morels can be up to 10 cm tall, with a firm rubbery texture and a hollow structure. The distinct cap is typically ridged and reticulated and as they mature the edge of the ridges may turn dark brown to black. In WA, morels fruit in the early spring and can be found in both karri and jarrah forest. They are generally not common but may be found in low numbers growing along side walking tracks or other areas that have undergone minor disturbance. However, on forest sites that were burnt the previous summer, morels may be especially prolific.