

Deadliest Plants and Bugs



Fact sheet: Fly Agaric

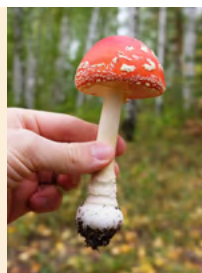
Fly agaric are a type of fungi. They play an important role in our ecosystem, helping to recycle nutrients from dead or decaying plants.

Fly agaric scores decoded:

	6
	1
	4
	7
	7
	1

Size: 6

Fly agaric can grow up to 30cm across and 20cm tall. They grow from September to November in the UK.



Life Span: 1

Fly agaric have a lifespan of 1-3 weeks. Paler red or yellowing caps are signs of an older mushroom near the end of its lifespan.



Colour / Camouflage: 1

Their bright red caps with white spots make them easy to spot. They also have white gills and a white stalk.



Armour / Defence: 4

It uses its bright colours to warn predators not to eat it. Animals such as wasps and some brightly coloured snakes and frogs also use their colours as a warning.



Poison level: 7

There are two toxins in this mushroom, which if eaten, can cause you to hallucinate! This means that it makes you see, hear, smell and feel things that are not really there.



Strength: 7

It is poisonous but unlikely to kill a human. Gills on the underside of the red cap release large amounts of white spores. These are carried long distances by the wind, but only a few will grow into new fungi.



More amazing fly agaric facts:

The image of the toadstool is used in lots of popular children's culture, including Super Mario and the Smurfs. In Alice in Wonderland, Alice eats a bit of fly agaric mushroom and shrinks. They are also used in lots of fairytale illustrations of the homes of elves and goblins, and in many other magical worlds.



Some animals, such as red squirrels and reindeer, are not affected by the fly agaric's toxins. They can eat them without harm, but humans should avoid them.