

# Approved Wild Mushroom Identification Expert

Regulation 6 CCR 1010-2: Retail Food Establishments

Over 5000 species of mushrooms grow in North America. Some wild mushrooms that are extremely poisonous may be difficult to distinguish from edible species. Only wild mushroom identification experts approved by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment may pick and provide wild mushrooms for sale or service. To obtain approval, a wild mushroom identification expert must:

## Approval

For a food establishment to be approved to sell wild mushrooms the source must be from an approved mushroom identification expert.

### Five Risk Factors

Top five causes of illness:

1. Improper Holding Temps
2. Inadequate Cooking
3. Contaminated Equipment
4. Food from Unsafe Sources
5. Poor Personal Hygiene

Food from an unsafe source can get people sick

## Regulation

3-201.16 Wild Mushrooms

This does not apply to:

1. Cultivated wild mushroom species that are grown, harvested, and processed in an operation that is regulated by the agency that has jurisdiction over the operation; or
2. Wild mushroom species if they are in packaged form and are the product of a food processing plant that is regulated by the food regulatory agency that has jurisdiction over the plant.

- Identify which county(ies) where they will supply wild mushrooms;
- Provide the genus and species of the wild mushrooms that will be supplied;
- Provide verification detailing their qualifications that demonstrate their ability to identify wild mushrooms such as educational degrees, years of experience, membership to professional organizations;
- Provide a letter of reference from an individual who can verify the picker has the expertise. The person supplying the letter of reference must be a recognized mycologist who can attest the picker has the ability to identify the wild mushrooms they intend to pick;
- Maintain records for at least two (2) years identifying the buyers, the type of mushroom(s) received and the quantity received, and;
- Supply an invoice to the buyer with each shipment that identifies:
  - a. The variety of mushroom by common name and genus and species;
  - b. The quantity;
  - c. The suppliers name, address, and date of packing.

Issued: 12/28/18

For more information contact your local health department or visit:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/food-code-transition>



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment