

WAXCAP MUSHROOM SPOTTER SHEET

Waxcaps are amazing fungi that are often brightly coloured and have a waxy or slippery looking cap. They are found in grasslands that are poor in nutrients or have poor fertility. And have not been treated with herbicides or pesticides. A good place to find them is sand dunes, lawns or cemeteries. Most waxcaps appear in autumn and early winter. Can you find these common species?



Can you find them all?



Scarlet Waxcap

The most common red-coloured waxcap, Scarlet Waxcaps appear in clusters. The caps are blood red which fades to orange tips. The gills underneath are yellowish and paler.

Ballerina Waxcap

Also known as the Pink Waxcap, the shape of this waxcap resembles a ballerina's tutu. It has a pointed rose-pink cap that feels waxy and is probably more frequent in the UK than anywhere else in the world.



Honey Waxcap

Unlike other slimier species, the Honey Waxcap is dry to the touch. Its name refers to its smell rather than colour, which is strongest in the stem. Usually appears in closely packed groups.



Parrot Waxcap

This colourful mushroom appears on roadside verges, cropped grassland and churchyards in summer and autumn. Their bright colouring resembles a parrots feathers: they can be a mix of orange, yellow, brown, purple or green!

(c) Peter aka anemoneprojectors, flickr



Golden Waxcap

Generally found in groups, these waxcaps are golden in colour with a slight red tinge towards the centre of the cap. The cap is very slimy in wet weather and the gills are a paler lemon-yellow.

Snowy Waxcap. (c) David Evans, flickr



Snowy Waxcap

Look carefully for this waxcap as it is often overlooked and hidden low down among mossy grass that has been kept short by grazing. The gills are widely spaced and the mushroom itself is small.