

# Fact Sheet

## Morel Mushroom Harvesting for Commercial Purposes

### Do I need a permit to harvest morel mushrooms on Yukon public lands?

You need a Commercial Harvest of Morel Mushrooms Forest Resources Permit to harvest morel mushrooms for commercial purposes *only*. You do not need a permit for personal use. A commercial permit authorizes you to harvest morels and outlines any conditions you must meet.

Always carry your morel permit with you when harvesting morels for commercial use in Yukon.

If you don't get a permit or don't carry your permit with you, you can be fined under the *Summary Convictions Act*. Other charges also could be laid, depending on the nature of the offence.

There are no fees for a Commercial Harvest of Morel Mushroom Forest Resources Permit.

### Why do I need a permit for harvesting morel mushrooms?

Requiring a permit to harvest morel mushrooms for commercial use helps the Yukon government ensure public safety and environmental responsibility. It also ensures that forest users contribute to sustainable and responsible use of our natural resources. Morel mushrooms are a delicacy and a prized ingredient in gourmet cooking. Harvesting them responsibly means carefully considering other users of the forest and public land.

### Where can I get a permit to harvest morel mushrooms and where do I find maps?

Permits for commercial harvesting of morel mushrooms and wildfire maps are available from Compliance Monitoring and Inspections district offices. Wildfire maps are also available online at [www.community.gov.yk.ca/firemanagement/index.html](http://www.community.gov.yk.ca/firemanagement/index.html).

# 8

## Contacts

### Yukon government Energy Mines and Resources Forest Management Branch

#### Physical Address:

Mile 918 Alaska Highway  
Tel: (867) 456-3999  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408  
local 3999  
Fax: (867) 667-3138  
Email: [forestry@gov.yk.ca](mailto:forestry@gov.yk.ca)

### Compliance Monitoring & Inspections

#### Klondike District (Dawson & Old Crow)

Dawson Office  
Tel: (867) 993-5468

#### Kluane District (Haines Junction & Beaver Creek)

Haines Junction Office  
Tel: (867) 634-2256

#### Northern Tutchone District (Mayo & Carmacks)

Mayo Office  
Tel: (867) 996-2343

Carmacks Sub District Office  
Tel: (867) 863-5271

#### Southern Lakes (Whitehorse & Teslin)

Whitehorse Office  
Tel: (867) 456-3877

Teslin Sub District Office  
Tel: (867) 390-2531

#### Tintina District (Watson Lake & Ross River)

Watson Lake Office  
Tel: (867) 536-7335

Ross River Sub District Office  
Tel: (867) 969-2243

## Other Agencies

### Community Services

#### Corporate Affairs

Tel: (867) 667-5314  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408  
local 5314  
Fax: (867) 393-6251  
-Business Registration

### Energy Mines & Resources

#### Land Management Branch

##### Land Use

Tel: (867) 667-5215  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408  
local 5215  
Fax: (867) 393-6340  
-Land Use Permits

### Highways & Public Works

#### Transportation Maintenance

##### Branch

Tel: (867) 667-5644  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408  
local 5644  
-Access Permits to build roads  
within the highway rights-of-way

### Yukon Workers' Compensation

#### Health and Safety Board

Tel: (867) 667-5645  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0443

### Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)

Tel: (867) 668-6420  
Toll Free: 1-866-322-4040

### City of Whitehorse Planning & Development Services

Tel: (867) 668-8346  
-Business Licence Bylaw 99-04

Your permit only allows you to pick mushrooms on vacant public lands and in designated areas. The Yukon Lands Viewer mapping tool is a good resource to identify public land. Access it at: [www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/](http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/). Be aware that some public lands have traditional or historic values or may be used actively by local residents.

For more information on morel mushrooms and their habitat, contact the Forest Management Branch at (867) 456-3999 or [www.forestry.gov.yk.ca](http://www.forestry.gov.yk.ca). For information on current fire bans, recent fire activity and road closures, contact the Wildfire Update line at 1-800-826-4750.

## Can I set up a camp?

A morel mushroom permit does not authorize you to cut trees or erect any permanent structures. For camps of more than two people for more than 100 person days and for information on setting up a camp on public land, please contact the Land Management Branch at (867) 667-5215 or [www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/](http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/).

Campsites must be left clean, safe and sanitary. The Yukon government supports no trace camping which encourages forest users to take out everything they bring in. Improper storage and disposal of food, garbage, and other animal attractants is an offence under the *Wildlife Act*. Encounters with wildlife are to be reported right away to the Conservation Officer Services in the nearest community or call toll free at 1-800-661-0408, ext. 8005.

## How do I identify morels? Why do I have to be careful when identifying morels?

There are a number of varieties of edible wild morels. Some species you see in wild mushroom guides include *Morchella esculenta*, and *M. deliciosa* and *M. crassipes*, commonly known as the Yellow Morel, and *M. conica*, *M. elata* and *M. angusticeps*, commonly known as the Black Morel. **Because of the chance of poisoning, the harvester must be extremely careful to pick the right mushroom. Consulting a number of up-to-date mushroom guides is advised.**

## WARNING!

Some wild mushrooms that look similar to edible morels are very poisonous. Even experienced pickers have been known to harvest "false morels" by mistake. There are important guidelines for the proper handling, preparation and consumption of edible morels. For example, morels should be cooked for at least five minutes and should never be eaten raw within 72 hours of drinking alcohol.

If you are unsure about the identity of harvested species, separate them into a different container from your morels. Get them examined in more detail by an experienced picker, a mycologist or at a buying station.

Beginners should always pick with an experienced person. Experimental consumption of unknown species is never recommended and could be lethal.

### **A note on compliance and enforcement in Yukon's forests:**

Compliance and enforcement are a significant part of managing our forests for their long-term health and to ensure that we can continue to realize the many benefits they provide. As a forest user, it is your responsibility to ensure you are complying with applicable laws, regulations and any terms and conditions outlined in permits and/or licences. For more information about your responsibilities and possible penalties for non-compliance, read Fact Sheet #5 or contact your local Compliance Monitoring and Inspections office.