

**Midwest Region Morels**

From	From: Craig M	From: Travis S	From: Mick F	From: Jeffrey B	From: Cory R	From: Molly Miller	From: David Stuthard	From: Mark Finch
Subject	Subject: Questionnaire	Subject: Questionnaire	Subject: Questionnaire	Subject: Questionnaire	Subject: Questionnaire	Subject: Questionnaire	Subject: Questionnaire	Subject: Questionnaire
Response	Response:	Response:	Response:	Response:	Response:	Response:	Response:	Response:
Regions	Region: Midwest (central)	Region: Midwest (central)	Region: Midwest (central)	Region: Midwest (central)	Region: Midwest (central)	Region: Midwest (central)	Region: Midwest (central)	Region: Midwest (central)
State	State: Illinois	State: Iowa	State: Kansas	State: Missouri	State: Ohio	State: Missouri	State: Ohio	State: Missouri
State Geo	State Geographic Location: West central	State Geographic Location: Southwest	State Geographic Location: East	State Geographic Location: MO	State Geographic Location: Central	State Geographic Location: MO	State Geographic Location: South East	State Geographic Location: SW
County	County: Hancock	County: Cass	County: Leavenworth	County: MO	County: Knox	County: St Charles co MO	County: Morgan County	County: Cedar
Woods	Woods: Hedge fence rows . Creek bottoms.	Woods: I hunt river bottoms at the beginning of the year followed by south facing slopes and try to finish with north facing slopes	Woods: I have typically had the best luck on hillsides with good drainage above streams or creeks. The last 2 years being warmer than usual, there has been quite a bit of undergrowth which obscures the mushrooms. But the early ones can often be found as soon as the green stuff starts springing up.	Woods: Mostly riverbottom land open to the public. Some state conservation areas adjacent to Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Woody areas are prone to seasonal flooding so elms, cottonwood,beech,and poplars. Extensive undergrowth showing virginia creeper, poison ivy, and nettle.	Woods: Looking for areas with more green and growth in early spring and hillsides and valleys	Woods: River basins hills surrounding creeks and woods surrounding golf courses	Woods: Early in the season I cover Ground. I check Many spots at different elevations for potential honey holes. As the season heats up I go To creek bottoms facing South and hills facing East and South East. Areas with benches and ravines. Along river banks has also been a really good areas but it comes down to covering ground and rechecking spots.	Woods: I'm in what is called the "Ozark Foothills", rolling hills, creek bottoms, cows and crops. 1000 MSL Typical woods, may apples, violet's, and crows.
Vegetation	Vegetation: Dead elms, ash, cottonwood.	Vegetation: I have the majority of my luck come under dying elms. Usually they are only good for 2 or 4 years but I have been picking the same spot now for 7 years though they are getting less and less each year	Vegetation: I look for elms right off the bat. But I have a few spots which have usually been very good to me and these range from deadfall to leaf litter on the forest floor.	Vegetation: I look for elm trees. Most of my finds are near elm.	Vegetation: Elm trees	Vegetation: I havnt found one specific tree. I hunt previously flooded areas.	Vegetation: I look Around the basic trees as a start such Ash, dead Elm, Apple Trees, and around multiflora rose bush.	Vegetation: They are where you find them. I do have a old oak that is first every year, at least the last 4 years it has been. Dead elms are Always worth checking out, dead without all the bark gone/fewly dead.
Weather	Weather Issues: Upper 70s ,rainy. We are in a drought this spring, not many morels.	Weather Issues: I like to hunt in the rain. Keeps the bugs down and other people out of the woods. Its been a wind couple years around here though we got a lot of rain early then things dried out quickly and out temperatures didnt stay steady until the beginning of may	Weather Issues: Last spring (if you can call it that), it got so warm so fast that the growing season was dramatically short. Other mushroom hunters I ran into had the same complaints. Temperatures skyrocketed into the 70s and 80s seemingly overnight. Some hunters I know didn't even bother. And the ticks were terrible due to the high temperatures.	Weather Issues: Black morels come early before the undergrowth is too thick. Very humid, but still cool. Yellow everyday morels come up later and seem to pop up in extreme heat. Found yellows in extremely dry conditions.	Weather Issues: Once it's about that time I go out	Weather Issues: We have constant weather change in st louis . Winter to summer in a 24- 48hr period flip flops alot won't find me at home. This seems to be when things start early spring. Its could be nonstop rain or a drought.	Weather Issues: 60-70 degrees plus good rain fall and getting good.	Weather Issues: For me last year was very poor. Freezing rain, sleet 1/2" 36 hours of 21 deg. all this a day after I found the first of the year (small grays at old oak). The rest of the season was 1 or 2 where there should be 15 on a average year. Numbers this year 2018 were so low I didn't pick anything. I just left them for every little spore to have a chance.
Competition	Competition: Very popular.	Competition: Quite popular. I know quite a few people who search for ahrooms in my area. It seems to be getting more popular as I have ran into a dozen people or so mushroom hunting on my private ground I hunt	Competition: Morel hunting is very popular in my area. Weston Bend State Park in Missouri is a veritable race to the mushrooms.	Competition: Extremely popular.	Competition: The area I hunt Apple valley, is a heavily hunted area but I have a few hard to get spots that always produce	Competition: Pretty competitive.	Competition: Mushroom hunting is pretty popular in my area. Everyone I know hunts mushrooms. We get a lot of people from out of town as we have a lot of public ground and the mushrooms can be plentiful there.	Competition: No change
Suggestions:	Suggestion: Do a lot of walking.	Suggestion: Slow down, look up at the trees as much as you do at the ground. Learn to identify your trees and their bark pattern	Suggestion: The best advice I can give new hunters is to try to learn from more experienced hunters. Some don't mind bringing a friend along, some do. Some don't mind sharing tips. Also, research online as much as you can.	Suggestion: Don't give up and remember to look at areas from two directions because something you miss going one way can be easily spotted from another direction.	Suggestion: Look hard and look everywhere. I almost always look for elm trees or areas that look more green or are more damp with decent sunlight	Suggestion: I dont know if I can give any key suggestions have only been hunting past 3 yrs. In Missouri conservation areas are a good place to start if you dont know where to go. I like to try a new spot each season. Its additive	Suggestion: Cover ground and check a spot more than once. Each mushroom seems different and pops when the conditions are right for it.	Suggestion: I have some Fed. land pretty close. I've done OK there.Never hunted state land, I've found lots of land owners will let you hunt if you just ask. East facing slopes early, flat to any angle ground after season is going good.
Date Range	Date Range: Month of april	Date Range: Usually mid april to end of may. But has been as early as late march into the first week of June	Date Range: I start mid-april or when the ground temp hits 50. I stop when I stop finding mushrooms or the ticks are too bad.	Date Range: April to early June.	Date Range: Early April 15th	Date Range: Mid March all the way thru April depending on weather	Date Range: Depending on weather I usually start around Mid April	Date Range: April early depending on weather and soil temp. I usual don't fine any thing to speak of by the fourth week after the first yellows.
Techniques	Techniques: I scout for trees before season to hunt later.	Techniques: I usually try to hunt large patches of timber with elms. At the beginning of the season I hunt river bottoms which seem to be productive since the sandy soil heats up quicker	Techniques: I hunt the land and look for loamy soil. Usually near some kind of water source. I carry a carved mushroom stick to push foliage out of the way and I always carry a basket or mesh bag. I also carry a knife to cut the mushroom at the base.	Techniques: I hunt for trees but will also hunt the land as I walk. No burn sites near me.		Techniques: I like previous flooded areas and hills next to creek beds.	Techniques: I hunt The land and the trees. I like To roam the woods so I hunt as I roam. Always stumble on something.	Techniques: Nope, just hunt.
Challenges	Challenges: Getting access to private land is not easy.	Challenges: Lately the weather hasnt been cooperating around here. The last couple years have been some of the toughest hunting ive had in southwest Iowa for awhile. They just seem more sporadic abd my honey holes are starting to die off. There isnt much public land and though I do have a large chunk of private land to hunt, I still run into someone in there without permission quite often	Challenges: The biggest challenge in my area is mostly competition. Working long hours and being the first to the shrooms do not go well together.	Challenges: No challenges other than time and the extremely short season we had this year.		Challenges: Our temperatures constantly changing.	Challenges: The only challenges is the amount of private property which I'm sure most people face	Challenges: none
Other Comments	Additional Comments: Need a wet spring next year.	Additional Comments: Slow down, get out early. Wear bug spray ticks suck! Take your kids with you pass on the knowledge you have to the next generation of shroomers. Share your finds, never tell anyone your secret spot. Get out in the woods and enjoy nature	Additional Comments: Good luck hunting!	Additional Comments: Thanks for doing what you do.			Additional Comments: As I've said covering ground and exploring is the best way to run into nice patches of mushrooms. Weather plays a huge role. Rain and warm nights seem to be the ticket. I always Go out after a good rain.	

<p>From: Adam C  Subject: Questionnaire  Response:  Region: Midwest (central)  State: Missouri  State Geographic Location: South central  County: Miller</p>	<p>From: Sydney C.  Subject: Questionnaire  Response:  Region: Midwest (central)  State: Illinois  State Geographic Location: West  County: Madison</p>	<p>Subject: Questionnaire  Response:  Region: Northeast  State: Ohio  State Geographic Location: South west  County: Montgomery</p>	<p>From: Zak D  Subject: Questionnaire  Response:  Region: Midwest (lower)  State: Michigan  State Geographic Location: Southwest  County: Calhoun</p>	<p>From: Robin  Subject: Questionnaire  Response:  Region: Midwest (upper)  State: Wisconsin  State Geographic Location: southeast  County: Waukesha</p>	<p>From: Robert B  Subject: Questionnaire  Response:  Region: Midwest (central)  State: Illinois  State Geographic Location: Central  County: Tazewell</p>	<p>From: Cory s  Subject: Questionnaire  Response:  Region: Midwest (upper)  State: Minnesota  State Geographic Location: Mn  County: Mn</p>	<p>From: Dee W  Subject: Questionnaire  Response:  Region: Midwest (upper)  State: Minnesota  State Geographic Location: Twin cities metro  County: Scott</p>
<p>Woods: The area around me is both spring fed and wet weather creeks between steep ridges with rocky outcrops. Past logging has left some areas with thick undergrowth and birch patches. Other areas contain dense stands of cedar. The ridges are mainly covered in oak and hickory, and the bottoms in sycamore and cottonwood. Most creek/liver bottoms are fairly narrow but there are scattered areas large enough for agriculture and are usually planted in corn, beans or milo.</p>	<p>Woods: I hunt in a relatively young wooded area filled mostly with oak, elm, and scrub trees. There is quite a lot of undergrowth of various kinds and the area is fairly moist because of a creek that meanders around the entire wood.</p>	<p>Woods: I hunt the bottoms of the hills, and the tops of the hills. Most of the models that I find are along the creek lines. I find some in the middle of the hills around ash and elm trees. The snake heads and blacks come up before the pheasant backs are visible, and the greys and yellows come up after.</p>	<p>Woods: Trees with shaded canopy. Not too much veg growth on ground. Any hills are good. Best to walk the deer trails.</p>	<p>Woods: Partially wooded 5.5 acre lot owned by me and my husband. Land is totally undeveloped, no other people allowed on it. Finding the morels on the upper part of the property under some dead elms, heavy undergrowth and also wooded. I have 3 specific areas I pick... only one of those areas in 2018 produced morels that were worth picking. The other two areas saw hardly any mushrooms. Were these areas overpicked from previous year? I don't know. Also May was very hot with many days of temps in the high 80s to low 90s and not a lot of precipitation. This was only second year of actual foraging so I only have 2017 to base my findings on.</p>	<p>Woods: mackinaw river flood plains kinda sandy soil open areas that get a lot of sun produce first then move into the tree lines and woods as season progresses all depends on the weather of course haven't had a good season in a few years do to lack of rain when we need it when I see dandelions I start looking for mushrooms and I cover a lot of ground walking miles a day and I've learned that's the really only true way to get what you are looking for- get out and look- as always be respectful of private property</p>	<p>Woods: Fairly flat 40 acre farm country woods.</p>	<p>Woods: I hunt mushrooms generally in semi hilly woods, parks, farm fields and apple orchards.</p>
<p>Vegetation: Early in the season I will look for elms, around the edges of cedar stands, higher on the south facing slopes. As the season progresses, I'll be looking around gooseberry patches and field edges in the creek bottoms.</p>	<p>Vegetation: No.</p>	<p>Vegetation: I find most of them around elm and ash trees, and dead logs.</p>	<p>Vegetation: Dead elms.</p>	<p>Vegetation: I go around the dead elms that are on property</p>	<p>Vegetation: Dead elms mayapples scarred ground hillsides that get a lot of sun</p>	<p>Vegetation: Dead elm, live ash, poplar, sumac, prickly ash large dead maple ,pine, cottonwood, white oak. Pretty much in that order.</p>	<p>Vegetation: Here in Minnesota, virtually all of the morels I find are under dead/dying elm trees. I follow deer trails, there is a lot of buckthorn hereabouts. Look for May apple plants, and open clear cut land if possible.</p>
<p>Weather issues: The weather can be very extreme here, especially early in the season. It might be frosty one morning, and 90 degrees the next. Severe thunderstorms are the norm but snow or ice isn't unheard of.</p>	<p>Weather Issues: Conditions are usually mild and moist.</p>	<p>Weather Issues: When the temperature is 70 for a few days in a row, and after a good rain. When it rains they start growing again.</p>	<p>Weather issues: About a week after nice amount of rain. 50's at night</p>	<p>Weather issues: 2018 was not a great year for foraging... only 1 out of 3 areas that I know of on my property produced mushrooms. April we had a bad snowstorm and very cold temps. May was overly warm and on dry side from previous yr</p>	<p>Weather issues: When I see dandelions or other fungi I start looking good rain and temperatures staying in the upper 50's lower 60's overnight mid 70's during the day for a few days</p>		<p>Weather issues: Our challenge in Minnesota is having to wait so long for morels, May is it for us. Used to do soil temps, but it's just to compare different spots, see what's warming first.</p>
<p>Competition: Very! Competition is high and favorite areas are jealously guarded.</p>	<p>Competition: Quite popular! It's an area of public land so many people do their hunting here but I have a few spots that no one else seems to touch so I almost never come away empty-handed.</p>	<p>Competition: Seems like it is getting more popular every year, but I still find some every year.</p>	<p>Competition: There a alot of people going to the state park. I havent had any luck there.</p>	<p>Competition: I have 5.5 acres to myself and husband.</p>	<p>Competition: Very popular get out there early</p>	<p>Competition: Very</p>	<p>Competition: I would say morel hunting is a fairly under appreciated hobby around the twin cities area. You'll run into a few other shroomers, but most of our woods are being desicated for housing development, and almost all of the parks in my county are "off limits" to morel harvesting. So the only good areas are relegated to bicyclists whizzing by, foragers are forbidden to even go off the blacktop paths, you will be questioned by park rangers. Such a waste of nature by keeping park visitors away from the woods! I've been known to carry and pretend to use binoculars as if I am bad watching! Then, if the coast is clear, I sneak off the path, check out my spots, then sneak back to the path.</p>
<p>Suggestion: Get out early and often. Hunt during the week whenever possible to avoid competition.</p>	<p>Suggestion: Keep at it! The first time I found a morel was completely by accident at the end of the season a few years ago. It made me want to hunt them on purpose and at first I thought I'd never find any but once you find one, more tend to come easier.</p>	<p>Suggestion: Study your trees, and look at the bases of trees to start off.</p>	<p>Suggestion: Go somewhere that people aren't going</p>		<p>Suggestion: Get out and look</p>	<p>Suggestion: Freshly dead or dying elm</p>	<p>Suggestion: Obviously learn to identify elm trees. Use a good walking stick, I actually prefer ski poles. Ticks are everywhere morels are, woods, fields, etc. I read about and used permethrin treated clothes for the first time in 2018, and I never even saw one tick on me the entire season. I saw by the stuff. Got it at local hardware store. Treated 2 sets of clothes, shoes, hats, socks, coats.</p>
<p>Date Range: Start when the dogwoods are blooming and go until the undergrowth gets to thick.</p>	<p>Date Range: Depending on temperatures, I usually start looking in mid-March (though I usually have more luck starting in April).</p>	<p>Date Range: April to may</p>	<p>Date Range: May-june</p>	<p>Date Range: If weather has been milder with precip., then start looking at around end of April, but mostly in May</p>	<p>Date Range: Early April through mid to late may</p>	<p>Date Range: April 20-june 10</p>	<p>Date Range: I start hunting, doing soil temps in mid-April to the end of May, starting south of the cities, ending farther north</p>
<p>Techniques: Any area that's been burned gets checked regularly. Otherwise just hit my known spots.</p>	<p>Techniques: I honestly just wander around the woods fairly aimlessly.</p>	<p>Techniques: I have found them in the pine needles on the way into woods, and anywhere in between the paths in the woods. I tend to start out around the trees, then follow the creek lines, and circle back to the trees again.</p>	<p>Techniques: Trees are always good to hunt by, I like to almost get lost that's when I find them</p>	<p>Techniques: I'm on my hand and knees under the heavy undergrowth being careful not to overpick. I only pick on my property</p>	<p>Techniques: Land, trees, flood plains, burn sites, open prairies, deep woods, tree lines, fence lines, follow deer trails, thickets, wooded areas that have been recently cleared, and mossy moist areas</p>	<p>Techniques: Trees</p>	<p>Techniques: I'm only now learning to hunt only for dead elms. Unfortunately, there really aren't many burn sites around here. I also keep an eye out for places trees have been cut down, for development or around park paths. Cut down elms are my favorite.</p>
	<p>Challenges: None</p>	<p>Challenges: There are a lot of public land, but the best places are private lands. Just make sure you have permission to go there first.</p>	<p>Challenges: Not alot of places to hunt. But if you look at google maps terrain you can some spots. A lot of where I go I probably shouldn't be like woods around factory.</p>	<p>Challenges: Have lots of heavy undergrowth and buckthorn.</p>	<p>Challenges: Other people and lack of public ground</p>	<p>Challenges: Available areas few and far between. Mostly private land</p>	<p>Challenges: My challenges here are the stupid restrictions to foraging in the county parks! I actually have morels in the woods behind my house, as I live in a city park area. Unfortunately, the park is mainly maple trees.</p>
		<p>Additional Comments: Make sure you have a bag that has holes in it. A potato sack or orange sack works really good. This lets the spores that are still on the mushroom fall off in the woods while you are walking.</p>	<p>Additional Comments: Right when I give up and decide to go back is when I find some. Look and see what others are finding in and around your area, make sure they are good size before going out</p>		<p>Additional Comments: Get out and look</p>		<p>Additional Comments: Huggy shrooming 2019. Think I might cook up the list of my frozen shrooms this month!</p>