

Southeast Region Mores									
From Subject Region State State Geo County	From: Dan Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Tennessee State Geographic Location: central County: Dickson	From: Jillian Wester Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Tennessee State Geographic Location: East County: Sevier	From: Meredith Cordova Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Arkansas State Geographic Location: Northwest Arkansas County: Benton County	From: Joey C Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Virginia State Geographic Location: west County: Washington	From: Craig Steinburg Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Tennessee State Geographic Location: northeast side of the mountain County: Marion,Sequitane	From: Christy Selber Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Tennessee State Geographic Location: East County: Campbell	From: Ian Blacklock Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Georgia State Geographic Location: Piedmont County: GA	From: Beth Mullin Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Tennessee State Geographic Location: East Tennessee – Almp Copper Ridge County: Anderson	From: Gage Caudill Subject: Questionnaire Region: Southeast State: Kentucky State Geographic Location: Eastern
Woods	Woods: Ridges and hollows (locally called hollers) creek bottoms...average undergrowth...a lot of my apple.	Woods: I walk along a hillside that goes down to the river.	Woods: My sweet spot is on land my parents own and we've been hunting morels there since I was able to walk. We've always found them on a wooded hillside near a large cave where lots of sycamore trees grow. This year I went exploring above that cave and found a new patch of morels in a grove of cedars. I was very excited to discover a new patch in an area we've hunted for over 20 years. I'm expecting a child and I cannot wait to pass down the tradition!	Woods: Deep soils, side slopes, no brush.	Woods: Found them along gravel roads around creek banks near wet land	Woods: Wild grape vines, more of a sandy soil that dark in color, moist creek banks or undergrowth, usually thick hedge around with a variety of trees but mostly tulip popular and seen in open sunny woods near moist creek bottoms, facing it always no matter the environment	Woods: The area in which I live is typified by gently rolling hills, nothing too extreme from a terrain standpoint. We have a creek nearby that feeds to the first river called Line Creek, many tributaries of which run fairly close to my house. Regardless, I tend to seek low lying patches of woodland adjacent to these tributaries and I generally have good luck.	Woods: Both wooded (shaded) and grassy (sunny).	Woods: Depending on whether it is early in the season or late in the first thing, determine if they are starting high or low. Most are found on steep gradients often with a stream or creek at the bottom.
Vegetation	Vegetation: We have noticed a strong correlation to sycamore trees the last three years while hunting the white mushrooms. Cant say that every sycamore tree has sycamores under it...but can say the best white sycamores we found were around sycamore trees. In years past we found the whites around poplar trees but that correlation hasn't been as strong lately. Our total number of the earlier black mushrooms has been down. But the best locations we have found for the black sycamores have been around persimmon trees....Have found them both on top of ridges and in the hollows.	Vegetation: I look for fallen trees and areas where nuts are laying.	Vegetation: Shady and moist ground around the area, and I look for sycamores and cedars with little undergrowth.	Vegetation: Timbered yellow-poplars are great. Oaks usually mean it's too dry.	Vegetation: Popul apple and rotten basswood	Vegetation: Wild grape vines, tulip popular	Vegetation: Tulip Poplar – Liriodendron tulipifera is particularly widespread in this corner of the state, so I can find a Tulip Poplar grove in a low lying area, generally near a creek or a pond...I start to keep my eyes to the ground. Admittedly, I keep my eyes to the ground anyway. Morels are but one of many varieties of mushrooms that I hunt...around here you tend to find Lycoperdon, Pleurotus, and Hericium fairly often as well during those months (though Hericium season is usually dying down).	Vegetation: We know where to look (see below) because they come back year after year in the same locations, though 2016 was a down year for us and we found relatively few.	Vegetation: Sycamores and elms are never too far away! You can also find that May Apples are a very good indicator that there may be some nearby. Also I tend to find many in and around burr patches. Often buried under sycamore leaves I never hurt to turn over a leaf or two with a stick. Also pieces after a forest fire can turn a few up.
Weather	Weather Issues: No doubt we have had some weather & temp challenges....early spring two or three years in a row....late March it would be about right...air and soil temps would be rising and then we would get a hard cold snap....we believe this is why our total number of black sycamores has been down.	Weather Issues: I typically find morels when my bare hands hurt from the cold.	Weather Issue: Arkansas weather varies but I tend to find them in mid April at least this year (did. From about April 7-21 this year. They do best when it rains some and then the sun comes out during the day after, and when the temperature is between 70 and 80). The biggest challenge is watching out for snakes!	Weather Issues: Foggy mornings are perfect	Weather Issues: After good winter temps 65-80	Weather Issues: Usually moist spring days and temp hovering about 55 to 60 at night and warmer for the daylight hours	Weather Issues: If it's short sleeve weather and has been for about a week, meaning 60 and above...I assume that things are going to be halfway decent for morel hunting. Around here it's rare that the dewpoints drop too low due to our relative proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, so from a humidity standpoint I don't really worry too much; if it's been warm enough for short sleeves it's humid enough as well.	Weather Issues: I've personally hunted in pouring rain, but when going out into the wilderness no weather should be a problem except if maybe an issue I hunt where a flash flood could leave you stranded for the night. This is due to multiple creek crossings where the creek itself is a road only accessible to off road vehicles.	Weather Issues: I've personally hunted in pouring rain, but when going out into the wilderness no weather should be a problem except if maybe an issue I hunt where a flash flood could leave you stranded for the night. This is due to multiple creek crossings where the creek itself is a road only accessible to off road vehicles.
Competition	Competition: not overly popular....some local trespassers to compete with....but not terrible.	Competition: It is not super common. I know a handful of people who morel hunt. Many people don't talk about it as to not give away their secrets.	Competition: Very popular in my area but luckily my sweet spot is on private property	Competition: it's popular on a per-capita basis but the population is low overall	Competition: There is a few beginning to be more numerous	Competition: I do not talk about it much, so I don't know further than I do where the morel hunting is a bit richer anyway. Excursions to the more mountainous North Georgia Appalachians are fairly common.	Competition: Not very. Most of the psychobacs that I know are through the Mushroom Club of Georgia tend to be further north than I do where the morel hunting is a bit richer anyway. Excursions to the more mountainous North Georgia Appalachians are fairly common.	Competition: I don't know how popular morel hunting is in our area. Since our morel harvesting sites are on our own property, all within 75 yards of our home, there is no competition!	Competition: There are several hunters in my area, most of them elderly and the numbers are dwindling. Some of the younger generation is trying to learn, but that means getting a seasoned hunter to give up the location of a honey hole, which presents a problem as most won't. Competition is pretty fierce when certain spots are known by multiple people meaning checking every day "around that time of the year" to catch the first one, and beat your neighbors to them.
Suggestions	Suggestion: Go with someone who can show you how to find them....to go in the woods "blind" is practically impossible....unless you just step off in them....which is rare in our area....but once you get "your eyes right" you can find them....check every sycamore tree in the hollows....and get down on your knees and look across the top of the forest floor....various looking straight down on it....slow down and be patient....and April....a day or so after a warm rain is prime time in our area....go slow and take your time.	Suggestion: Walk slow and scan the ground. Turn around and look back over the area if it seems like mushrooms should be there. Change your point of view by squatting down and looking too.	Suggestion: Watch FaceBook! Some people don't know not to shake their spots!! Also look out for snakes while hunting! Look for sycamore and cedar trees and moist areas.	Suggestion: Just walk a lot!	Suggestion: Watch out for snakes and be safe	Suggestion: Know the woods & prepare for some underbrush crawling	I generally wait until there's been a good rain a few days prior though, but honestly I'm in the woods often enough that I don't really care that much. I don't find anything Stomping around in woodlands is a reward unto itself.	Suggestion: If you've never seen a morel in person, come visit us in April!	Suggestion: Don't give up, have fun, look for sycamores, always use a mean bag, pinch them off instead of pulling them up, don't tell people about the spot you do find, stay hydrated, watch for snakes, bring snacks, and if you plan on selling them, save some for yourself!
Date Range	Date Range: Start mid March....End early May.	Date Range: This was my first year and by mid-April the season was pretty much over.	Date Range: All through April depending on the weather!	Date Range: April 20 to May 20	Date Range: March thru may	Date Range: Early to mid April	Date Range: End of March to through first week in May	Date Range: End of March to end of May.	
Techniques	Techniques: As mentioned above....last three years we have been on a sycamore tree pattern for the whites and persimmon tree patterns on the earlier black....occasionally we will look around poplar trees as well....we have one cedar thicket we will also find them in when everything is just right....but we find them on top of ridges and in the hollows so I say we hunt trees more so than the land....but the trees we hunt do like certain types of land....so I guess it all goes hand in hand....kind of a mystery I guess.	Techniques: I hunt the trees and hollows where there's little ground cover and lots of moisture in the ground. I've never found any in sunny areas, they love shade. It's best to look after it's been about 60° at night and rainy and then about 75° and sunny the next day.	Techniques: I find them at work.	Techniques: Just enjoy nature and since the age of 7 been hunting morel mushrooms and I'm pushing 60 now	Techniques: I always have an eye out no matter what when walking new woods. No particular environment.	I'm located about 30 miles southwest of Atlanta, and probably 60 or 70 miles north of the fall line, below which morels are extremely scarce, if present at all. Even here, it's not particularly common to find huge bouquets. I found a grand total of 13 morels last year.	Techniques: Basically our "hunting" technique is to walk around our yard. 1. We find morels every year on either edge of our gravel drive which is lined with white pines. 2. We find them every year in the woods behind our workshop on either side of a fallen poplar tree. 3. We find them under a blue spruce tree in the yard.	Techniques: I takes a pretty good eye after years of hunting but you can always start by looking for sycamores, and there is usually a certain "look" a hillside or valley can have that just draws you to it. In the words of my papaw, "that's a real pretty spot to see a big mushroom over there."	
Challenges	Challenges: Mostly private property in our area....not alot of public ground....and in our area we have a narrow window....really the month of April is your best chance....it can happen before that in late March....and after that in early May....but April you better be walking and spending time in the woods around these parts or your gonna miss it.	Challenges: There's lots of places to hunt, many of them are private property and again be on the lookout for snakes!	Challenges: Slopes are challenging. Lots of rhododendron too.	Challenges: Not much public land	Challenges: Elevation about 1100 ft or more. One patch is low in the valley. Valley is earlier than normal.	Suggestion: In order to find suitable woodlands, I use Google Maps satellite imagery to identify likely locations for good mushroom hunting. As long as there aren't too Trespassing signs, I figure it's not off limits. So far that hasn't gotten me into trouble. That said, I really only hunt two particular areas that I know to be private property. One is a church who allows people to roam in their 30 acre woods, and another is a 50 acre plot on the county line owned by a retired NBA star...I see children frolicking in those wetlands from time to time. Just make sure you're not in a place where people don't want you and keep a low profile...people look at mushroom hunters strangely sometimes.	Challenges: The terrain is very rugged. We compare ourselves to mountain goblins because of the inclines we hunt on. The unpredictable weather of Kentucky means you never know if it's gonna be a good year or bad year. I found around 300 in 2018, and over 2000 in 2017. Another challenge in Eastern Kentucky has been Strip Mining by the coal companies. I've lost many honey holes to mountain top removal and strip mining. One place my grandfather showed me that he's hunted since he was a young boy was removed a few years ago and that's always a hard hit, but if you only go to the same place every year, it doesn't feel as much like hunting, so I can't complain too much.		
Other Comments	Additional Comments: Love the website...appreciate the effort to collect information from others to educate and help all....Thanks & God Bless! Dan in Charlotte TN (Dickson County)	Additional Comments: Happy hunting!!			Date Range: Mid-march to Mid-april	Additional Comments: I've noticed a trend over the past few years of them coming up earlier and earlier. From mid April to the end or even middle of March. Granted it really depends on the type of winter we have. Our largest morel was about 9 inches, more frequently they are 4-7 inches.	Additional Comments: As stated earlier I look for low lying Tulip Poplar groves. They're easy to spot from afar due to their distinctive leaf shape and coloring, immense height, and extremely straight trunks. Once I get there, I pretty much cover myself in DEET and keep my head to the ground while squatting around in the brush. If I find a morel, I begin a visual scan of the surrounding area. Usually there are more around.		
					Challenges: I live in a smaller town in the southern Atlanta suburbs. Many of the other nearby towns are a bit more developed and lack as many good foraging grounds. Honestly the biggest challenge here is just latitude: morels just aren't that common this far south, and once you get south of a line from about Columbus to Macon, you're generally out of luck. A friend of mine in Tennessee (about 50 miles north of here) had immense success last year, so maybe I've just not hit the jackpot yet. That said, maps of morel sightings tend to confirm my suspicions that morel frequency diminishes rapidly as you move southward.				