



## STROPHARIA

### Cultural Instructions for Growing Stropharia (on ECOlogical Straw)

This set can be used in two ways.

1. For direct culture. Remove the plastic bag from the set and put the substrate in a hole in the ground in a damp, shady spot. Cover with a layer of 3–5 cm moist garden soil.
2. As an interim phase, which increases the yield considerably compared to the method mentioned under point 1.
  - a. Take 2 bales of fresh, beautiful yellow, shiny and well-kept straw - preferably ECOlogical straw - each approx. 15 kg, and keep them under water for 2 days, for example in a large tub or butt. Next, let leak out for 1 day. You can also water the bales of straw liberally 2–3 times a day for 7–10 days.
  - b. With a dibber or stick make 10–14 holes in the bale, about 15 cm deep and spaced evenly, and put walnut-sized pieces of spawn into the holes. Then close the holes well.
  - c. Dig a 10 cm deep hole in a damp, shady spot in your garden and place the bale in the hole. Cover the bale with plastic, which you perforate in 4 to 5 places, to let air pass.
  - d. After 8–15 weeks, depending on the outside temperature, the bale will be veined with white threads of mycelium. Remove the plastic and cover the top of the bale with 3 cm of moist garden soil. In case of persistent rain the culture should be protected, for example by placing it under a lean-to.

If you start the culture in autumn, you will harvest in May/June. If you start in spring, harvesting falls 4 months from the start. Ensure that the bale remains moist by spraying regularly, but take care it does not become too moist, or the culture may die because of lack of oxygen! If you start in autumn, it will often not be necessary to spray. Give about 2 litres of water once or twice a week during the warm season. In a period of frost (minus 8 to minus 10 degrees C) cover the bale with straw or peat dust which should be removed after the winter.

**HARVESTING:** Pull the mushrooms with a twist of the hand. Do not cut. Wild mushrooms such as ink-cap may occur, but they are not detrimental to the culture. The bale is exhausted after 3–5 months, but the culture is still perfect to use as a compost accelerator or fertilizer.