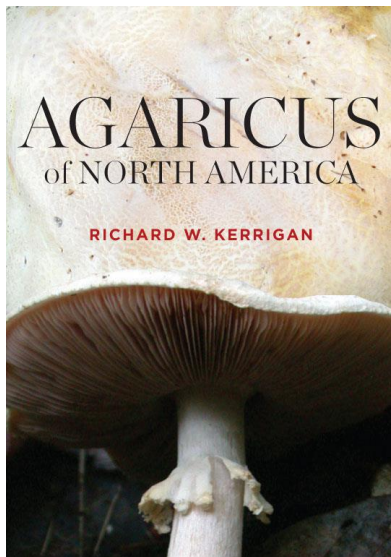


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***Agaricus of North America* Now Available from The New York Botanical Garden Press**

First-of-its-kind Volume Provides Reliable, Accessible Information about a Diverse Group Of Fungi Found in North America, Including a Favorite Edible Mushroom



Bronx, NY—*Agaricus* is the name of a group of related species that includes the white-capped button mushroom found at most grocery stores, but until now, it was hard to track down scientifically reliable information about the other species in this large and diverse genus of fungi. ***Agaricus of North America*** by Richard W. Kerrigan, newly available from The New York Botanical Garden Press, is intended to address that problem by providing authoritative yet accessible information for both specialists and interested amateurs.

This volume, the result of more than 40 years of research by the author, provides “how” and “why” explanations to help identify more than 180 species of *Agaricus* fungi found in North America, with technical details arranged in a simple layout that offers clear descriptions and notable features for each species treated. To help readers further in identifying species, the book is illustrated with nearly 300 color images.

In the foreword to *Agaricus of North America*, Kerrigan writes that during his decades of work on *Agaricus*, few research papers have been published on the genus in North America, and those that have are not easily obtained by general readers with an interest in mycology, the study of fungi.

“An authoritative and accessible sourcebook is, I think, highly desirable,” Kerrigan writes. “I believe that this presentation uniquely bridges a gap between the typical specialist literature and the typical field guide, in a way that will interest many readers.”

Kerrigan’s unique approach combines an evaluation of *Agaricus* diversity in natural ecosystems with technical descriptions either from his own notes or from herbarium specimens. Although often referred to as “meadow mushrooms,” about 90 percent of *Agaricus* species grow in forests and other non-grassland habitats. As for the button mushroom, *Agaricus bisporus*, Kerrigan writes that cultivation was developed in France more than 300 years ago and has since spread to most developed countries. In the United States alone, more than 100 commercial mushroom farms produced 675 million pounds of button mushrooms in 2007–08.

While serving as a first-of-its-kind resource about *Agaricus* in the United States, Canada and northern Mexico, Kerrigan also hopes that his book spurs further research on this complicated genus.

“There surely remain large numbers of unknown, unnamed, undescribed species of *Agaricus* in North America,” he writes. “The present volume is comprehensive in the sense that it attempts to encompass all that is *known* about *Agaricus* in North America.”

About the Author of *Agaricus of North America*

Richard W. Kerrigan, Ph.D., became interested in *Agaricus* in 1971 as an undergraduate at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and deepened his knowledge of the genus as a graduate student at San Francisco State University, from which he received an MA degree in 1982. He earned a doctorate from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1989, and since 1993 he has been the Director of Research, U.S.A., at Sylvan, Inc., the world’s leading producer of cultivated mushroom spawn. His study of the diversity, taxonomy, systematics, and phylogeny of wild species of *Agaricus* has continued as a separate, independent area of research for 45 years.

Advance Praise for *Agaricus of North America*

“Richard Kerrigan has produced a modern authoritative work on a difficult but important and common genus. Complete with extensive introductory chapters, keys, excellent descriptions, and photographic illustrations, this monograph belongs in the collection of every professional and amateur mycologist interested in the genus *Agaricus*.”

—Michael Wood, Past President of the Mycological Society of San Francisco

“Before this monograph, it was difficult, if not impossible, to identify accurately many collections of *Agaricus* that I have accumulated over the past 40 years of biodiversity work in North America, including the Caribbean region. It will become an invaluable identification manual for taxonomists, ecologists, foresters and naturalists throughout North America who work with species of *Agaricus*.”

—Timothy J. Baroni, Distinguished Professor, State University of New York College at Cortland, and Past President, Mycological Society of America

About The New York Botanical Garden Press

Since 1896 The New York Botanical Garden Press (nybgpress.org) has been publishing books and journals based on original research by scientists from around the world. The mission of NYBG Press is to put information in the hands of those engaged in exploring, understanding, and conserving plants and fungi. Areas of focus include floristics, systematics, economic botany, ecology, evolution, conservation, and ethnobotany. A growing list of books for general readers includes field guides and botanical history.

Ordering Information: *Agaricus of North America* (\$127.99, hardcover) is available through NYBG Press. To order, go to nybgpress.org or call 718.817.8721.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants, an educational institution, and a scientific research organization. Founded in 1891, the Botanical Garden is one of the world's preeminent centers for studying plants at all levels, from the whole organism down to its DNA. Garden scientists conduct fundamental research on plants and fungi globally, as well as on the many relationships between plants and people. A National Historic Landmark, the Garden's 250-acre site is one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world and the largest in any city in the United States, distinguished by the beauty of its diverse landscape and extensive collections and gardens, as well as by the scope and excellence of its programs in horticulture, education, and plant research and conservation. Learn more: nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

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