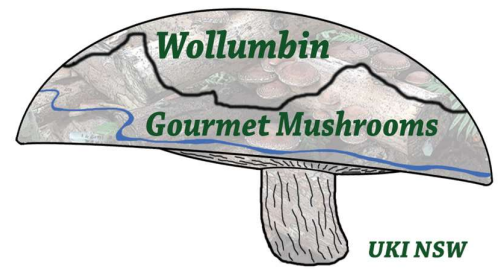


# Shiitake Logs



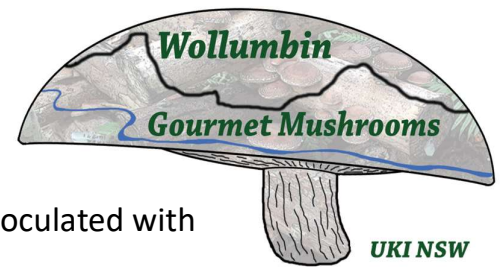
## Care and Instructions.

Congratulations on your purchase!

We hope you will enjoy seeing your mushrooms growing through all the different stages and of course the flavour of your naturally grown mushrooms once picked and cooked.



## What did you purchase?



You have purchased a Eucalyptus log that has been inoculated with the Shiitake mushroom.

At the point of purchase your log will be approximately 6 to 8 weeks old and will require many more months for the Shiitake mycelium to fully colonize the log.

This means you will need to keep the log in optimal conditions to ensure the Shiitake mycelium will grow through your log.

Under Optimal conditions full colonization can take another 4 months to 12 Months.

Conditions not optimal may cause your log to fail or take much longer.

## How do you give it optimal conditions?

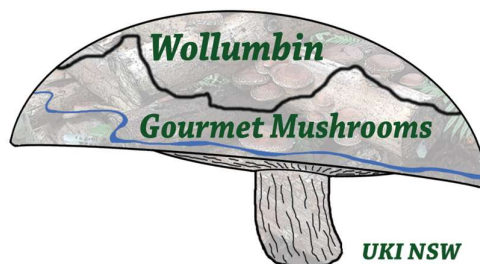
The conditions that the Shiitake log seems to enjoy are wet humid conditions with some low humidity during the day and high humidity during the evening / night

Basically you need to keep your log moist and here are a few ways to do this.

- You can partly bury the log in the garden either on its end or on its side. Then keep it damp by watering occasionally when there is no rain.
- Another way which is very successful is to place a pot plant saucer under one end and then place a pot plant on the top. When you water the pot plant excess moisture will drain into the log and keep the saucer topped up with water.
- There are many other ways to achieve a similar result.

## What to expect:

- Your log will take another 3 to 12 months before it is ready to fruit with optimum conditions
- Your log may fruit in flushes or in just a few at a time and this will vary.
- Generally your log will flush or fruit approximately every three months depending on local conditions. Sometimes it may not even fruit for 12 months.
- Your log will last approximately 3 to 5 years depending on size and conditions.
- Your log may find a few other fungi can take up residence on your log but the Shiitake mycelium should be throughout the log and will fruit when conditions are right.



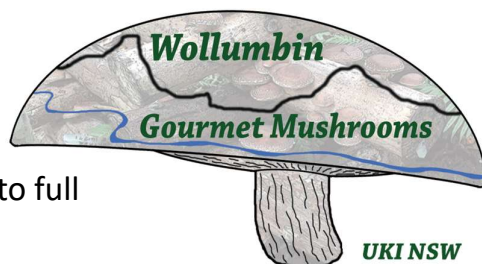
## Instructions:

### 1. Keep the log moist.

- a. You can partly bury the log in the garden either on its end or on its side. Then keep it damp by watering occasionally when there is no rain.
- b. Another way which is very successful is to place a pot plant saucer under one end and then place a pot plant on the top. When you water the pot plant excess moisture will drain into the log and keep the saucer topped up with water.

### 2. When will they Fruit.

- a. Your log should fruit when conditions are optimal – generally after heavy rain has stopped or numerous storms every day for a few days in a row or in a few days of light rain. It is usually after the rain that they fruit
- b. Sometimes fruiting may not happen naturally and your log can be shocked into fruiting although it is not always successful. *See Shocking your log to fruit in the trouble shooting.*
- c. Your log will generally rest for at least 2 months after fruiting although if only a small flush is produced a few more may appear a short time later.
- d. If your log has not fruited for 3-6 months you can try shocking it into fruiting *See Shocking your log to fruit in the trouble shooting.*



### 3. When to Pick.

- a. Shiitakes will take about 3 to 8 days to develop to full size.
- b. Some Shiitakes will only grow small and others large to very large. This is evident from the size of the emerging cap and stem.
- c. A small one will not grow any bigger just by leaving it to grow more. Best to pick them at the right time (see next “d”)
- d. You should try to pick the Shiitake when the cap has not yet fully unfolded and the edges and are still slightly rolled in and before they flatten out.



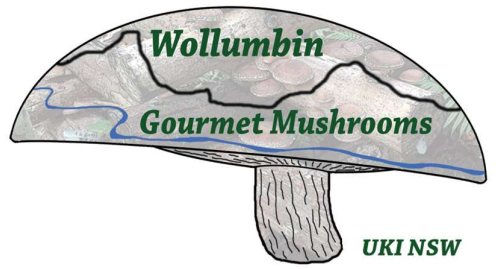
### 4. Cover your Shiitakes

Rain is very favourable to help your logs start to fruit but can severely damage your mushroom when it is almost at the picking stage. It is advisable to cover your fruiting log to prevent damage to the fruit. Once picked remove the cover until next time they fruit. The cover can be a lid of a storage tub placed on top of the log that is much wider than the log or something just to prevent excess rain on the top of the fruit. You can also temporarily move it under cover but **Do not** wrap the whole log in plastic.

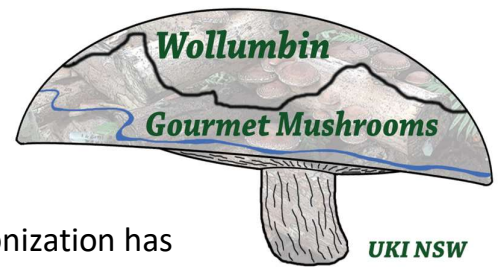
**5. What does a Shiitake look like?**

- a. It is important to know that you are actually picking Shiitake Mushrooms from your log. As there are many other fungi that may attack your log or even take it over, but they are mostly way different in looks.
- b. Here are a few photos of Shiitakes at different stages.





# Trouble Shooting



## 6. Shocking your log to fruit.

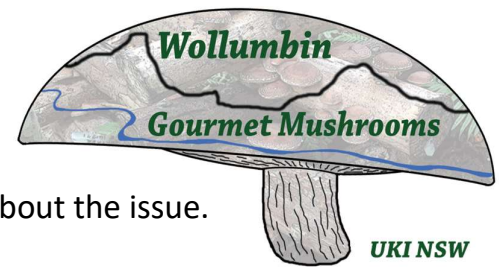
- a. Only do this after the initial 4-12 months of colonization has passed.
- b. If your log has not fruited for at least 3 months and conditions have been favourable then sometimes it is possible to shock you log into fruiting.
  - i. Firstly submerge your log if possible in a bucket of cold water 24 to 36 hours. (Best fully submerged but you can rotate it a few times during the soak.)



- ii. Once soaked then drop your log from about 1 metre high onto the softer ground (not concrete) to simulate a fallen tree affect. You can also use a block of wood or rubber mallet to give it a whack.

### **Important! - Still having issues?**

Any issues or questions please take many pictures and email them to me along with some information about the issue. (See contact information below)



Be sure to include:

- Picture of log
- The area around the log
- Where it is placed, its local environment.

## **Contact Information:**

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