

# DarkPot↑

## Mini and Midi Mushroom Grow Kit

[www.UKmusha.co.uk](http://www.UKmusha.co.uk)

### Mushroom growing instructions

The DarkPot is a larger yielding grow kit for mushroom growers looking to grow more exotic species and is suitable for many gourmet, medicinal or decorative mushrooms that grow well in straw and grain substrates. The instructions are virtually the same as for the ThisPot grow kit series.

### Inoculation

1. Prepare area for work by cleaning and wiping down with disinfectant. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and let dry. Optionally, put on sterile gloves for extra hygiene. Cover mouth with face mask or even cloth covering to help prevent airborne bacteria contaminate work surfaces.
2. Open bag containing the DarkPot and place on sanitised work surface.
3. Wipe injection ports with Alcohol wipe provided. Let alcohol wipe stay in contact with surface for at least 5 seconds.
4. Shake syringe vigorously to disperse any settled spores or culture.
5. Remove the sterile needle from packaging (supplied by spore or culture syringe supplier) leaving the hard plastic protective covering in place and lock in place on the gourmet spore or culture syringe. If using a non-sterile, previously used needle then flame until red and let cool. Using a hot needle will melt the injection port and prevent self healing.
6. Remove protective plastic sheath from needle.
7. Inject the needle through the first injection port, past the top vermiculite layer into the substrate below, as per the image below.



8. Carefully inject 1 ml of solution into the pot.
9. Remove syringe and inject into the second injection port.
10. Carefully inject 1 ml of solution into the pot in the second injection port.
11. Put the DarkPot Mini or Midi in the humidity tent to aid sterility and store the DarkPot somewhere warm and dark, preferably in a temperature controlled environment according to the temperature preferred by the mushroom you intend to grow. Do not leave in direct sunlight. Many tropical varieties prefer temperatures between 24°C and 27°C.

## Colonisation and Fruiting

12. Mycelium should start growing and become visible between 5 to 10 days.
13. Wait for colonisation to complete, usually between 4 to 5 weeks, depending on species, temperature and spores versus live culture. **Do not place directly on top of heat sources like heating mats as this will dry out the substrate.** Sometimes the dark substrate stains the usually white mycelium, depending on strain or species.
14. Once the whole substrate has become covered in white fluffy mycelium the cake has formed, excluding the very top layer. The top layer may not become colonised, this is an inert layer for protection and water retention. The DarkPot should look something like the picture below. It should be given a further 5 days to make sure all internal, non-visible spaces become covered in mycelium. Once this date has passed move to the next step.



15. Remove lid from pot and place on working surface, top side upwards.
16. Soak perlite in water and rinse, straining excess water, retaining the soaked perlite and place on the top of the lid.
17. Place the grow pot on top of the wet perlite as in picture below.



18. Spray or mist the surface of the vermiculite on top of the cake to moisten it well. Slide the humidity tent over the top of the whole kit, tucking it underneath the lid, as in picture below. This will trap the humidity to create the right fruiting conditions for the mushrooms to fruit.



19. Pull the tent open to create an internal space for the mushrooms to expand. The result should look similar to the picture overleaf. Move this to a cooler environment, a few degrees lower than where the DarkPot was previously located. This is to stimulate fruiting conditions.



20. Remove the humidity tent once a day and spray water into the tent with a misting bottle, then replace the tent on top again.

21. Once the mushrooms appear, simply remove the humidity tent by sliding it upwards and harvest.



## Extra Flushes

22. After the first flush of mushrooms is harvested, fill the pot with water to the top and replace the lid securely to keep the cake submerged. After 24 hours remove lid and pour out the water.
23. Remove the white mycelium cake mass from the pot, rinse the pot with fresh water.
24. Roll the cake in the vermiculite provided in the bag, covering all surfaces, making sure as much will stick to the surface as possible. This layer can now absorb water to help the mycelium cake grow extra harvests.
25. Respray the perlite and place the mushroom cake on top of the perlite. Very lightly spray the vermiculite after a few days.
26. Place the cake back into the humidity tent. Mist or spray the inside of the tent lightly and regularly throughout each day, for about 3 days. Stop spraying if you see the primordia (knots) forming, but continue to remove the bag once a day to aid fresh air exchange. Let the fruits grow and harvest.
27. Repeat the process after each flush, misting the vermiculite and perlite well. After several flushes and harvests the cake will become exhausted and will stop producing mushrooms. The cake can be added to compost for the garden or discarded with food waste.