

Mushroom compost

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The microbiology of spent mushroom compost and its dust.

Kleyn JG, Wetzler TF.

Microorganisms in spent steamed mushroom compost and its dust were enumerated, and identified. Some phase II (indoor composting) compost samples were also examined. Steaming of spent compost resulted in a 70-76% reduction in microbial numbers. Total counts made with compost fusion agar were approximately two logs greater than those for nutrient agar. The most common bacterial isolate was *Bacillus licheniformis*. The most common actinomycete isolates were *Streptomyces diastaticus* and *Thermoactinomyces vulgaris*. Other actinomycete isolates included *Streptomyces albus*, *Streptomyces griseus*, *Thermoactinomyces thalophilus*, *Thermomonospora chromogena*, and *Thermomonospora fusca*. The most common fungal isolates were *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Humicola grisea* var. *thermoidea*. Other fungal isolates included *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus nidulans*, *Aspergillus terreus*, *Aspergillus versicolor* group, *Chrysosporium luteum*, *Mucor* spp., *Nigrospora* spp., *Oidiodendron* spp., *Paecilomyces* spp., *Penicillium chrysogenum*, *Penicillium expansum*, *Trichoderma viride*, and *Trichurus* spp.

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