**Fungal Glossary**
This fungal glossary describes the majority of the molds that may be identified by the Mold Labs. Refer to mold dictionary for further information.

**Alternaria**
*Found:* Alternaria grows in basements, linens, carpets and in any damp area. It is a plant pathogen found in woods, leaves, grass, and plant debris and mulch. Common indoor and outdoor fungus. Levels peak in hot and humid weather or during rainy periods. Levels increase indoor as weather warms.

**Health Effects:** A known allergen (Type I and III), it has also been associated with hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

**Acute symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing.

**Arthrinium sp.**
*Found:* Arthrinium is a widespread organism that grows on decaying plant matter. It is found on sugarcane swamp grasses and sedges.

**Health Effects:** Only one species is considered allergenic.

**Acute Symptoms:** There have been no reported cases of infections or toxin related diseases in humans or animals.

**Ascospore**
*Found:* Found on plant material as saprophyte or pathogen. Some cellulolytic organisms grow indoors on wallboard and similar substrates.

**Health Effects:** No information available.

**Acute Symptoms:** No information available.

**Aspergillus**
*Found:* Very common indoor and outdoor fungus. Peaks in hot and humid weather or during rainy periods. Can be found in sheetrock evaporative coolers, wet basements, behind vinyl wallpaper, insulation, and carpet dust.

**Health Effects:** Type I and III hypersensitivity reactions. May cause allergic reactions in asthmatics and immunocompromised patients. Some strains produce mycotoxins.

**Acute symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, Rarely, aspergillosis.

**Basidiospore**
**Found:** Basidiospores are a general category of spores released by fungi in the mushroom group. They include agents of dry wood rot, which may destroy structural wood of buildings. They thrive on decaying plant matter, and are mainly found in gardens, forests, and woodlands. Spores disseminate during rain or in times of high humidity.

**Health Effects:** Rarely opportunistic pathogens, basidiospores may however produce toxins. Members of this group produce Type I and III fungal hypersensitivity reactions.

**Acute symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing, hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

**Beltrania**

**Found:** Found in dead leaves and plant debris in subtropical to tropical areas.

**Health Effects:** No information available.

**Acute Symptoms:** No information available

**Botrytis sp.**

**Found:** Mostly reported to be found in tropical and temperate areas. This fungus is a parasite of plants, soft fruits and vegetables. May be found indoors in association with plants.

**Health Effects:** Botrytis sp. is a Type I & III allergen, not a known toxin producer or opportunistic pathogen.

**Acute Symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing, asthma attacks and other allergic reactions.

**Cerebella**

**Found:** Found widespread on many different grasses.

**Health Effects:** No information available.

**Acute Symptoms:** None found

**Chaetomium**

**Found:** It is found on a variety of substrates containing cellulose including paper and plant compost. It has been found on paper in sheetrock.

**Health Effects:** Some studies have suggested that it can be a Type I allergen. Can also produce a mycotoxin called Chaetoglobosin.

**Acute symptoms:** Not well studied.

**Cladosporium**
**Found:** It is commonly found on dead plants, foods, textiles, and the surface of fiberglass duct liner in the interior of supply ducts. A very common mold, it thrives in hot and humid environments or during rainy periods.  

**Health Risks:** Infections caused by Cladosporium carrionii include pheohyphomycosis and chromoblastomycosis. It can cause extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I). Chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema. Some species produce a mycotoxin which could act as an immuno-suppressive.  

**Acute symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing. May include edema and bronchial spasms.

### Corpinus

**Found:** This genus is a basidiomycete (mushroom). It can be found growing on cellulose surfaces.  

**Health Effects:** See "basidiospore"  

**Acute Symptoms:** See “basidiospore”

### Curvularia sp

**Found:** Found as a saprobe or pathogen on plant material.  

**Health Effects:** Rarely, it may cause corneal infections, mycetoma and infections in immune compromised hosts. Also reported to cause Type I hypersensitivity.  

**Acute Symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing, fungal sinusitis

### Drechslera/Bipolaris group sp.

**Found:** Bipolaris is a plant pathogen mostly on subtropical and tropical plants; it is commonly found in dead or dying plant debris, soils, and grasses.  

**Health Effects:** Occasionally causes pheohyphomycosis in immunocompromised patients. Common cause of Type I allergy and fungal sinusitis.  

**Acute Symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing.

### Fusarium

**Found:** A common soil fungus found on a wide range of plants and often found in humidifiers.  

**Health Effects:** Several species in this genus can produce potent mycotoxins. Fusarium is a Type I allergen.  

**Acute symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing. Can occasionally cause keratitis, onchomycosis, mycetoma, and systemic infections in immunocompromised patients and burn patients.

### Epicoccum
| **Photo** | **Found**: Found on plant litter/compost. Commonly found in soil  
**Health Effects**: No reported health effects  
**Acute Symptoms**: No reported symptoms |
| --- | --- |
| **Ganoderma** | **Found**: A basidiomycete commonly found on deciduous trees.  
**Health Effects**: See “basidiospore”.  
**Acute Symptoms**: See “basidiospore”. |
| **Monodictys** | **Found**: Found on dead vegetation, damp linoleum, paper, sacking, etc.  
**Health Effects**: No information available.  
**Acute Symptoms**: No information available |
| **Myxomycetes/Smuts/Periconia** | **Found**: Parasitic plant pathogens. Often found on decaying plant material, however occasionally found indoors.  
**Health Effects**: Type I fungal hypersensitivity reaction.  
**Acute Symptoms**: Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing |
| **Odium** | **Found**: Odium is a plant pathogen causing powdery mildews. It is commonly found on the leaves and stems of flowers of plants. Does not grow on non-living surfaces such as wood and sheetrock.  
**Health Effects**: None reported  
**Acute Symptoms**: None reported |
| **Penicillium** | **Found**: It is commonly found in soil, food (particularly grains), carpet, wall paper and other cellulose products, and in interior fiberglass duct insulation. It is easily aerosolized, therefore, commonly found in air samples.  
**Health Effects**: It may cause hypersensitivity pneumonitis and allergic alveolitis in susceptible individuals. Some species can produce mycotoxins. Common cause of extrinsic asthma (immediate-type hypersensitivity: type I).  
**Acute symptoms**: Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing, also edema and bronchospasms: chronic cases may develop pulmonary emphysema. |
| **Periconia sp.** | **Found**: Rarely found growing indoors. Usually found in soil, blackened and dead herbaceous stems, leaf spots, grasses.  
**Health Effects**: None reported  
**Acute Symptoms**: None reported |
Peronospora

**Found:** This is a plant pathogen commonly known as downy mildew. Found on leaves, stems, flowers, and the fruits of living higher plants. Does not grow on non-living environmental surfaces.

**Health Effects:** None reported

**Acute Symptoms:** None reported

Pithomyces sp.

**Found:** This fungus is found mainly growing on decaying plants, especially grasses. Rarely found indoors.

**Health Effects:** It produces a mycotoxin called sporidesmin, causing facial eczema and liver damage in animals.

**Acute Symptoms:** None reported for humans.

Spagazzinia

**Found:** Extremely rare fungi usually airborne in non-viable spore trap samples. It is not known to grow indoors.

**Health Effects:** No information available.

**Acute Symptoms:** No information available.

Stachybotrys

**Found:** It has worldwide distribution growing on cellulose (wood) based products like drywall, ceiling tiles, studs, floor joists and other building materials.

**Health Effects:** Several species of this fungus may produce a trichothecene mycotoxin -Satratoxin H. This and several other toxins are present in the fungal spores.

**Acute Symptoms:** Individuals with prolonged exposure to the toxin produced by this fungus reported cold and flu symptoms, sore throats, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue, dermatitis, intermittent local hair loss and generalized malaise. This organism is rarely found in outdoor samples. It is usually difficult to find in indoor air samples unless it is physically disturbed or if there is (speculation- a drop in the relative humidity). The spores are in a gelatinous mass. Appropriate media for the growth of this organism will have high cellulose content and low nitrogen content. The spores will die readily after release. The dead spores are still allergenic and toxigenic. Percutaneous absorption has caused mild symptoms.

Stemphylium sp.
Found: Found on dead plants and cellulose materials; it can be parasitic or saprophytic. Health Effects: Reported to be a Type I allergen. 
**Acute Symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing.

**Taeniolella**

*Photo Coming*

Found: Primarily found growing on wood; can be a wood degrader on building materials

**Health Effects:** Taeniolella is considered a contaminant, however little is known concerning allergic properties or toxicity.

**Acute Symptoms:** No information Available

**Torula sp.**

*Photo*

Found: Has been occasionally reported as growing indoors on cellulose materials like paper.

**Health Effects:** It is primarily considered a contaminant but has been reported to be a Type I allergen. **Acute Symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing.

**Ulocladium sp.**

*Photo*

Found: Found as a saprophyte on plant materials and soils. Can grow indoors on rotten wood, paper, textiles, and other organic substrates like cellulose and other water-damaged building materials. Ulocladium is also found in dust and air samples.

**Health Effects:** Type I allergies.

**Acute symptoms:** Mucous membrane irritations, flu-like symptoms, coughs, sneezing; also asthma

**Xylariaceae**

*Photo Coming*

Found: An ascomycete found on wood, roots, or similar substrates. Not commonly found indoors.

**Health Effects:** See “ascospores”.

**Acute Symptoms:** See “ascospore”.