

# Take a closer look at... WAXCAP FUNGI

Waxcaps have been called the orchids of the fungi world because of their amazing colours - from pink and red to yellow and green. Why do they have these colours – this is one of the many mysteries about these beautiful fungi. They are called waxcaps because of their shiny, waxy or sticky caps. Wales is internationally important for waxcaps. They are an indicator of a habitat in good condition. Autumn is the best time to see waxcaps – keep an eye out and see what appears near you!

- Waxcaps appear on grassland where the soil has been undisturbed for a long time - old unploughed pastures, mown lawns and grassy churchyards where there has been no recent fertilizer application,
- Where you find waxcaps you always find moss in the grass as well – the mysteries of how they are linked to each other are still to be discovered.
- In North America waxcaps typically grow in woodlands – another riddle for the experts to solve.
- To conserve grassland fungi:
  - 1) keep areas good for fungi well mown,
  - 2) remove grass clippings,
  - 3) reduce mowing to favour flowers in areas less important for fungi,
  - 4) do not use any lawn feeds, fertilizers, moss killers etc.; do not reseed.



Visit the [Plantlife](#) for more on waxcaps and the [Council's website](#) for more on Carmarthenshire's amazing wildlife.



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