

destroying angel

Amanita sp.

Kingdom: Fungi
Division: Basidiomycota
Class: Agaricomycetes
Order: Agaricales
Family: Amanitaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

The body of a fungus (mycelium) is made up of strands called mycelia. In Illinois, the mycelium for the destroying angel grows in a mutualistic relationship with oak tree roots. The fruiting body that produces spores is generally present for only a short period of time but is the most familiar part of the fungus to people. The fruiting body of the destroying angel is white. It has a ring around the stalk. The white gills are free from the stalk.

BEHAVIORS

The destroying angel may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in a mutualistic relationship with oak trees in this part of the country. Unlike plants, fungi do not have roots, stems, leaves, flowers or seeds. The destroying angel must absorb nutrients and water from the objects it grows in. In this species, nutrients are obtained from the oak tree roots, and the presence of the fungus helps the tree to grow better. It may be found singly or in small groups. Spores are produced from spring through fall. The spores provide a means of reproduction, dispersal and survival in poor conditions. Spore production occurs when conditions are favorable, generally with warm temperatures and ample moisture.

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emerging from leaf litter

ILLINOIS RANGE



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Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none