

DarkPot↑

Maxi Mushroom Grow Kit

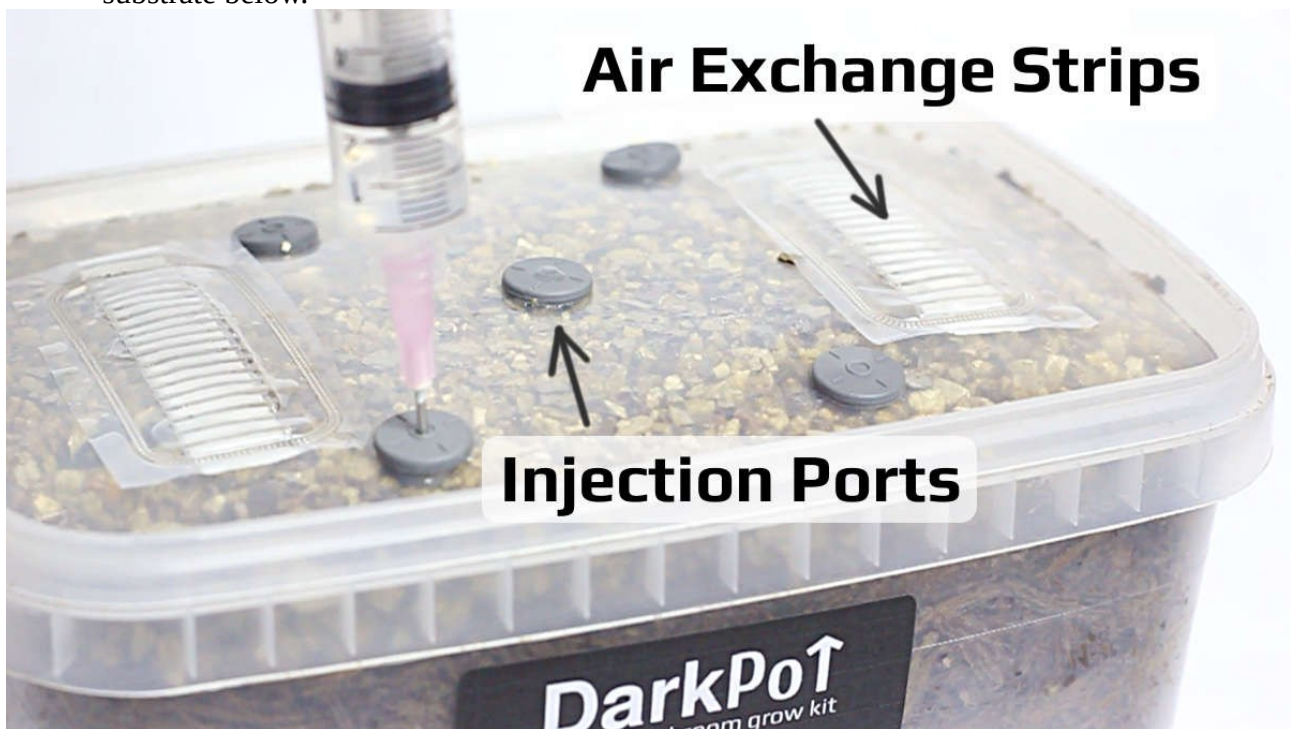
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Mushroom growing instructions

The DarkPot Maxi is a larger yielding grow kit for mushroom growers and is suitable for many gourmet, medicinal or decorative mushrooms that grow well in straw and even manure based substrates. The instructions are virtually the same as for the ThisPot grow kit series.

Instructions

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 Maxi 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 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.



8. Carefully inject 1 ml of solution into the pot.
9. Remove syringe and inject into the second injection port.
10. Repeat steps 8 and 9 for all five injection ports.
11. Do not remove the Air Exchange Strips.

12. Put the DarkPot Maxi 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 or directly on top of a heating element. Many tropical varieties prefer temperatures between 24°C and 27°C.
13. Mycelium should start growing and become visible between 5 to 10 days.
14. Wait for colonisation to complete, usually between 3 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.
15. Once the whole substrate has become covered in white fluffy mycelium the cake has formed. It should be given a further 7 days to make sure all internal, non-visible spaces become covered in mycelium. Once this date has passed move to the next step.
16. Remove lid from pot and place on working surface.
17. Soak perlite in water and rinse, straining excess water, retaining the soaked perlite and place on the top of the lid.
18. Place the grow pot on top of the wet perlite as in the picture below.



19. 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 the picture below. This will trap the humidity to create the right fruiting conditions for the mushrooms to fruit.



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



21. Mist or spray the inside of the tent lightly and regularly throughout each day and replace the humidity tent. Stop if you see the primordia (knots) forming. Let the mushroom fruits grow and remove the humidity tent once a day by sliding it upwards and briefly fan them, replacing the tent afterwards.
22. Once the mushrooms appear, remove the humidity tent and harvest.

23. 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 excess water.
24. Remove the white mycelium cake mass from the pot, and rinse with fresh water.
25. Roll the cake in the vermiculite provided, covering all surfaces, making sure as much will stick to the surface as possible. Lightly spray the vermiculite.
26. Respray the perlite.
27. Place the cake back into the humidity tent. Mist or spray the inside of the tent lightly and regularly throughout each day, for at least 3 days. Stop if you see the primordia (knots) forming. Let the fruits grow and harvest.
28. Repeat the process after each flush harvest, misting the vermiculite and perlite well to encourage further harvests.
29. Once the mycelium cake is exhausted, it can be broken up and used as compost in the garden or discarded with food waste.