

## Northern Saskatchewan

# Morel Mushrooms 2016

### Introduction

After the extensive areas in Northern Saskatchewan that were burnt in 2015, there is expected to be a large crop of morel mushrooms this summer. Morel mushrooms flourish in burn areas after a forest fire and can be found in coniferous (pine & spruce) and mixed wood forests. Harvesting morels can generate a significant seasonal income.

### Season

Typical Morel season is from mid-May to the end of June.

### Morel Market and Prices

Morels are a prized delicacy and are in high demand on world markets. Prices fluctuate during the year and are the lowest during morel harvest season.

The market price of fresh morels vary from \$10-28/lb

As a picker, you can expect to make anywhere from **\$5-14/lb** for fresh morels.

It takes about 35 average sized morels for 1lb.

### Proper Procedures

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcA-A8aJFac>
- Use a small knife to cut off the morel cap at the top of the stem.
- Never “clear cut” a patch, harvest only the healthy mature specimens.
- Keep picked morels in the shade and protect them from rain.
- Use a 5 gallon pail with many holes cut out from it or a shallow basket to ensure aeration.

### CAUTION

- Morels should not be eaten raw.
- Mushrooms can accumulate toxic heavy metals and other contaminants. Do not harvest near mines or dirt road corridors with dust.
- Early morel and False morel look similar to morels but are not marketable. Ask an experienced picker for guidance.



### Entrepreneurs

For people interested in not only picking morels, it is possible to sell morels and retain a larger percentage of their market value.

You must be able to create a set-up where you can properly dry the morels. For more info refer to page 9 of the mushroom harvesters guide at <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/publications/morel-mushroom-harvesters-guide>

To sell or check market prices you can either go online to <http://www.ebay.com/bhp/morel-mushrooms>

Or you can find more wholesale buyers by getting in contact with the **Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP)** at (306)-933-6551

### Where to Pick and Sell

A map is available of all the areas burnt in the 2015 fires at <http://kcdc.ca/2015firemap.pdf> as well as smaller maps outlining each fire at <http://goo.gl/d6fbbi>

Ask around in your community to see if a buyer is in town.