

# — BIODIVERSITY — on your Farm

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has set a challenge for farmers to record some of the amazing biodiversity found on your farm during the year. We have 40 species for you to record.

Are you up for the challenge?

## Species: Turkeytail

Scientific Name: *Trametes versicolor*

Irish name: Erinabal turcaí

### Group

Belong to the *Coriodaceae* family which includes many of our common bracket fungi.

There is no complete checklist for fungi in Ireland.

### How common on farms

Biodiversity surveys were carried out across 40 farms within the National Biodiversity Data Centre's 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators' EIP project (<https://biodiversityireland.ie/projects/protecting-farmland-pollinators/>). The 40 farms were chosen to reflect farms of differing types and intensity levels. The Turkeytail was present on some of the 40 farms.



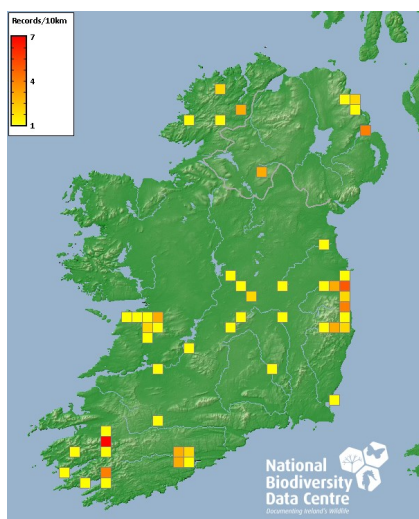
Turkeytail. Note: Circular caps, that look like the tail of a wild turkey.

### Identification Tips

- Very thin multicoloured bracket fungi, 2 to 10 cm across, said to look like a wild turkey tail.
- Circular caps seen growing in tiers on trees and deadwood, usually in groups and overlapping.
- Upper surface can be undulating and velvety, with parallel circles, in different colours.
- Underside has usually fine rounded pores, when young they're a whitish colour, turning a light brown colour with age.
- Found on living and dead deciduous trees.

### Distribution

Common and widespread, probably under recorded.



Source: The Turkeytail records as viewed on Biodiversity Maps, 2023.

## Biodiversity Tip No. 34

Leave some deadwood, around the farm.

It is an important part of the nutrient cycle and a valuable habitat for wildlife.



## Conservation Status

Red Lists are an internationally recognised methodology for assessing conservation status.

There has been no national conservation assessment of Fungi in Ireland.

## Management Tips

*On the farm - native hedgerows:*

- Retain some naturally fallen deadwood, if it needs to be moved, leave it as close as possible to where it fell.
- Leave some stumps in the hedgerow, it will provide the valuable nutrients required for the soil, help soil stability, help prevent soil erosion and a valuable wildlife habitat.

*Farm woodlands and shrub:*

- Retain some standing and fallen deadwood or stumps, they will help to release valuable nutrients to the soil, help soil stability and also help prevent soil erosion.

## Where on the farm?

The fruiting body is found on both living and dead wood of deciduous trees in hedgerows, woodland and scrub.

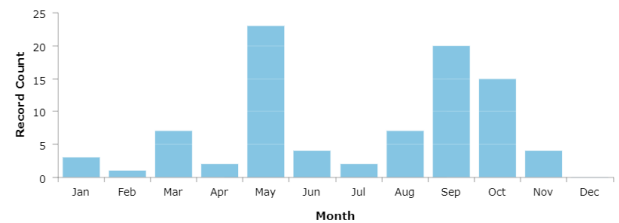


Turkeytail. Photo: Liam Lysaght

## When?

The mushroom can be seen throughout the year, but best seen in the autumn.

### Records per month across all datasets



National Biodiversity Data Centre, Ireland, Turkeytail, image, accessed October 2023.

[Turkeytail \(\*Trametes versicolor\*\) - Detail - Biodiversity Maps](#)  
([biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie))

## Value

- Helps to break down dead and decaying wood, releasing valuable nutrients to the soil, help soil stability, also help prevent soil erosion and a valuable wildlife habitat.
- Mycorrhizal networks play important ecological roles: they may exchange essential nutrients with trees through the roots, help with the absorption and retention of water, protect plants against pathogens, and hold the soil together by acting as a giant underground net. The thread-like system is so vastly multilayered and interconnected that it is sometimes referred to as the 'wood-wide web'.
- Traditionally used to increase circulation, for skin complaints, to help arthritis, rheumatism and gout.
- More recently they're properties are being looked at for use in the treatment of cancer.

## Further Info

Turkeytail is a polypore fungi, it is the fruiting body of a white rot fungus that grows on wood, making it an essential part of the nutrient recycling.

Fungi belong to their own kingdom and get their nutrients and energy from organic matter, rather than photosynthesis like plants.

It is often just the fruiting bodies, or 'mushrooms', that are visible to us, arising from an unseen network of tiny filaments called 'hyphae'. These fruiting bodies produce spores for reproduction, although fungi can also reproduce asexually by fragmentation.

Mycorrhizal networks are made up of white, thread-like filaments that play countless ecological roles: they may exchange essential nutrients with trees through the roots, help with the absorption and retention of water, protect plants against pathogens, and hold the soil together by acting as a giant underground net. The thread-like system is so vastly multilayered and interconnected that it is sometimes referred to as the 'wood-wide-web'.

## Similar species

They may be confused with the Ochre bracket *Trametes ochracea* which has less colours on their cap.

## Need some help with identification?

Just drop us a line, we'll be happy to help:  
[pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie)

## Useful Links

Further fungi information here:

[Fungi - National Biodiversity Data Centre \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](http://biodiversityireland.ie)

Some great information here, Northern Ireland fungi:

[Northern Ireland Fungus Group – Learn all about fungi in Northern Ireland \(nifg.org.uk\)](http://nifg.org.uk)

The British Mycological Society.

[Home :: British Mycological Society \(britmycolsoc.org.uk\)](http://britmycolsoc.org.uk)

## Record here

Your records will help us build a picture of farmland biodiversity in Ireland. If you're happy with your identification, you can submit your record.

- On the National Biodiversity Data Centre website:

<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/biodiversity-on-your-farm#7/53.455/-8.016>

## Affected by a change in climate?

Research is taking place to see if prolonged droughts and an increase in wildfires may have an impact on biodiversity below ground, especially the mycorrhizal networks of fungi.

These networks are deeply interconnected with trees, plants, microbes and other organisms. So it will be important that they are resilient to changes.

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