Midwest Grow Kits Revision 6.0; 2021

Midwest's Bulk Casing Guide

Ratios and supplies needed for Bulk Growing

- **1 - 5lb bag of Midwest's Select Casing to 1 Spawn Bag.**
- **1 - 5lb bag of Midwest's Select Casing to 2 or 3 Quick Colonizing 5Grain Jars or 5-6 half pint substrate Jars**
- **1 - Plastic/Rubbermaid fruiting chamber - *(See table for approximate container size needed)***
- **Vermiculite (optional)**

1 spawn bag or 6 jars	14"x10" (16 Quart Container)
2 spawn bags/ 5-6 24oz Quick Jars/ 12 half pint jars	18" x 12" container *Pictured in Guide* (40 Quart)
3 spawn bags or 18 jars	22"x 14" (56Q Mega Container)
7 spawn bags or 48 jars	36" x 18" (110 Quart Container)

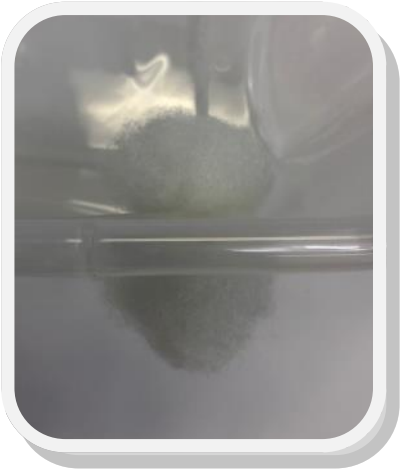
*This table is just a general guideline. You want to have around 3-3.5 inches of casing/spawn in your container. Keep the ratios close to one spawn bag to one 5lb bag of casing. It's ok to add more spawn than casing, it may speed up the colonizing time but generally won't increase the yield. **Always use the same strain when mixing multiple spawn bags or jars together ***

Storage for un-opened casing mix bags

Unopened Select casing bags can be stored at room temperature for 3-4 months If you aren't quite ready to use your casing mixture, we recommend storing it in your fridge/freezer. They can store for up to 5-6 months when frozen. When ready to use, casing must thaw at room temperature for 24 hours prior to using.

Midwest's Bulk Kit Step 1

Remove the polyfil from the bag. Pull apart a golf ball sized amount and begin filling the round 1" holes in the container. You want to pull the polyfil through so each side has equal amounts showing and is secure. See photo below.



Preparing your Container

With the black plastic provided, start by cutting an oval shape around 21” x16” in size. You can use two layers if desired. This will keep light from entering through the bottom of the container.

Place the plastic on the bottom and trim any parts as needed. When you add your casing and spawn it should generally be around the same height as the spawn/ casing mix. (3-3.5”)

Step 2

Place 2/3 to 3/4 of the casing mix on the bottom of the fruiting container and don't forget to leave enough for top layer.

Step 3

Break up fully colonized spawn bag or jars into small pieces. Its best to break them up first into a separate container or bag and then dump it into the fruiting container and mix well. Try and get the spawn mixed evenly throughout the casing mixture. If you are using jars, you may need to use a food processor or coffee grinder to break up the cake better. Jars can be very difficult to break up.

Step 4

Take the remaining casing and put a top, thin cover layer (1/2 inch to 3/4 inch) over the entire surface of the spawn/casing mixture, so that there are no exposed grains. Pat it down lightly to create a smooth surface.

Mist the inside walls of the chamber with fresh clean water. Put the lid on tight. Continue to mist the walls of the chamber on a daily basis to help ensure the humidity stays elevated. Most people recommend leaving the container in the dark during this stage but light will not hurt the mycelium development.

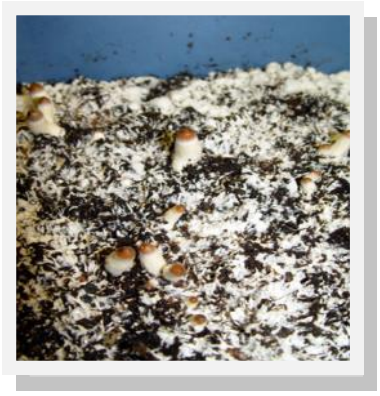
Step 5

After 7-10 days, you need to check on the tub. If it's 100% colonized you will see bits of white mycelium poking through the surface. Now it is time to introduce light to the fruiting chamber. Introduce light by exposing the top of the chamber to daylight or 5000k light from a light source. (See our lighting kit) If you are using a blue container, you can cut a hole in the lid and tape a piece of plastic wrap over the hole to create an area for light to enter.. They need light 10-12 hours per day.

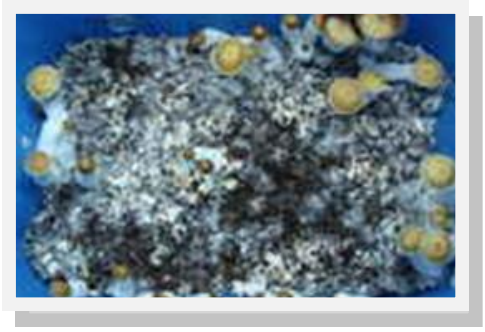
After 10 Days

After 14 Days

Soon you will start to see pins forming and mushrooms will start growing. This can take anywhere from 2 weeks up to 4 weeks depending on the size of the container and the amount of spawn used.



Pins Forming



Keep misting the sides of the container each day. Bulk grows will usually flush 2-3 times with each flush producing less mushrooms each time.

Note: *If storing bags for extended periods without freezing check the moisture level of the casing. Grab a handful of it and squeeze lightly. If you see a few drops of water come out its perfect. If no water drips out, add 1 cup of clean water and re-mix. Repeat until this consistency is achieved. This is known as "Field Capacity", the perfect water ratio for growing mushrooms.*

(Optional) Top Vermiculite Moisture Layer

This last step is optional, many people like to add a top layer of vermiculite. It is not needed in most cases. If you feel your fully colonized casing is starting to become dry this is a great way to re-hydrate the casing.

1. Once everything is re-colonized and pins are forming, sprinkle a 1 centimeter layer of vermiculite on the top, spreading it out nice and even. (You will only use a portion of the 1 gallon bag provided)
2. Brush it off any small pins or growing mushrooms.
3. Fill the spray bottle with filtered water (bottled spring water is best), mist the entire surface until it is damp. Do not over -saturate. Repeat this process every 24-48 hours as needed. Add more vermiculite as needed after picking.

Dunking?

This question is asked a lot and is debated by many. Typically you will not need to dunk your bulk grow. There is enough moisture in the casing mix to provide 3 flushes worth of mushrooms. In all our testing, dunking or floating the cake between flushes does not produce notable benefits in growth and its very easy to damage the cake.

Bulk grow pictures in all different sizes submitted by our customers.