

Chaetomium

Chaetomium is a genus of fungi in the Chaetomiaceae family. It is a dematiaceous (dark-walled) mold normally found in soil, air, and plant debris. As well as being a contaminant, Chaetomium are also encountered as causative agents of infections in humans. Chaetomium are a common fungal species which are distributed every where with over 80 species presently known. Chaetomium colonies are rapidly growing, cottony, and white in color initially. Mature colonies become grey to olive in color. From the reverse, the color is tan to red or brown to black. Fruiting structures of this mold look like olive-green cockleburs - 1/16 inch in diameter - that develop on compost. Commonly found on deteriorating wood products, chaetomium frequently emits a musty odor and is frequently found on water-damaged drywall and other lower cost construction products often used in the United States.

