

FBMG Help Desk

Question of the Week

This yellow fungus was in my flower bed this morning, what is it, is it toxic, how do I get rid of it?

*This is actually *Fuligo septica*, sometimes commonly called *Dog Vomit Slime Mold*.*



Fuligo Septica

Not a fungus, not a disease, in fact a very
beneficial part of nature!



Actually, more closely related to amoebas, this has been
around for millions of years and is found worldwide.

*Sometimes called dog vomit slime mold and sometimes called scrambled egg fungus,
it is harmless to plants, animals and humans, unless allergic to it. (In some parts of
the world reports of it being cooked for breakfast exist).*

Research for use in antibiotics, antimicrobials, chelation of
heavy metals and cancer fighting prosperities continues.



An Interesting Life Cycle

Comes and goes quickly

driven by weather and food source



beginning to appear



later stage

Fuligo septica produces wind borne spores, which are resilient and able to remain dormant for several years until favorable conditions cause them to emerge.



related to seaweed in some light it almost resembles the appearance of coral

In warm and wet conditions the spores split open and the Fuligo septica / dog vomit slime mold moves, unseen in amoeba like fashion eating microbes, bacteria and fungi found in decaying organic matter. Once the food source is gone it appears and disappears very quickly.

A Friend to the Environment

Contributes to the soil nutrition and mitigates heavy metals.

Feeding on the fungal spores, bacteria and similar organisms found in decaying matter such as dead leaves, rotting wood, excess turf grass, mulch, decaying wood and dead plants *Fuligo septica* returns these digested bits back to the soil in the form of nutrients.



Its only natural predators are beetles, snails and slugs.



Due to its ability to quickly accumulate heavy metals from the soil and render them inert, *Fuligo septica* shows great promise for use in bioremediation, (the practice of using plants and micro-organisms in areas contaminated by toxins to aide in environmental clean-up.)

Appearing to have the ability to help mitigate plant affecting pathogens found in the soil, it is a friend to plants as well.

Control is temporary at best.

*Consider embracing *Fuligo spetica* as a contributor to your garden health and the environment.*

The best way to control *Fuligo spetica* is to attempt to make the environment uninviting. Dog vomit slime mold has shown to be immune to chemical.

Some temporary solutions to aide with the unsightliness include;

- *reducing amount of irrigation*
- *remove from the area with a shovel and dispose of*
- *choosing an inorganic mulch such as gravel*
- *raking the area gently to aerate and dry out the area*
- *scraping it off and away from the area and dispose of*
- *cover it up with adjacent mulch*
- *wash it away gently, a strong hose blast will cause it to spread*
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******Note that all of the above are temporary as the spores will spread and it will return at some point in the future.******



*Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk*

*Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu*

*Phone:
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon*

<https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/tag/edible-slime-mold/>

[Grass and Mulch Molds: What's That Funk and Will It Do Something Funky to Me?"](#)

ipm.missouri.edu/MEG

[DogVomitSlimeMold.indd \(wisc.edu\)](#)

[Slime Mold Time | East Texas Gardening \(agrillife.org\)](#)

[How to Grow and Care for Dog Vomit Slime Mold \(thespruce.com\)](#)

[I Ain't Afraid of No Slime Mold - UF/IFAS Extension Leon County \(ufl.edu\)](#)

[Dog Vomit Slime Mold \(Scrambled Egg Slime Mold\) Grass and Mulch Molds - Whats that Funk and Will it Do Something Funky to Me? // Missouri Environment and Garden News Article // Integrated Pest Management, University of Missouri](#)

[Be-at-Home with Nature: Dog vomit slime mold](#)

[DogVomitSlimeMold.indd \(wisc.edu\) Be-at-Home with Nature: Dog vomit slime mold - UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County \(ufl.edu\)](#)

[Dog vomit slime mold | Elisabeth C. Miller Library \(washington.edu\)](#)

[Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab Slime mold](#)

[Slime Mold Attacks! Blame Heat Wave! - My Northern Garden](#)

[at http://plantclinic.tamu.edu](http://plantclinic.tamu.edu)

[WHAT: Slime Mold](#)

[Dog-Vomit-Slime-Mold - Yosemite National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) - Yosemite Ranger Notes \(nps.gov\)](#)

