TROUBLESHOOTING & CONTAMINATION

Mushroom Zen Academy | Draft for owner review | November 2026

What is often normal

White mycelium may appear patchy at first, particularly where colonized grain is already present. Colonization speed varies by variety and conditions. Condensation alone is not proof of contamination.

Warning signs

Bright green powdery patches can suggest Trichoderma or other molds; black or pink growth, spreading unusual colors, slimy patches, or foul odors are also warning signs. Photographs cannot definitively identify a contaminant.

If you suspect contamination

Do not open, sniff, shake, or attempt to rescue a suspect bag indoors. Isolate it from other projects and contact MZA with photos. Follow local disposal rules; seal and discard when appropriate. Avoid eating anything from a suspect grow.

Slow colonization

Check temperature stability, whether the filter patch is blocked, and the start date. Do not inject extra culture into an MZA kit. Ask for support if growth appears stalled.

No mushrooms after cutting

Confirm full colonization, sufficient humidity, indirect light, and fresh air. Avoid excessive wetting and unnecessary additional cuts. Send a photo and timeline for species-specific troubleshooting.

Photo slots to fill later

Insert original MZA photos: healthy colonization, Blue Oyster pins, Lion’s Mane fruiting, and confirmed contamination examples only after identification is established.