MUSHROOM ZEN ACADEMY

Pioppino Grow Kit Guide — OWNER REVIEW DRAFT

Germinating People Into Growers

This guide is for a Mushroom Zen Pioppino (Agrocybe aegerita / Cyclocybe aegerita) ready-inoculated grow kit. Your kit has already been mixed with spawn. **Do not inject or inoculate it again.** Species-specific settings are provisional until Mushroom Zen completes its own Pioppino trials.

1. When your kit arrives

Inspect the bag without opening it. Keep the filter patch unobstructed. Do not cut the bag while the substrate is still colonizing. Record the arrival date in your grow journal.

2. Let the block colonize

Keep the sealed bag in a clean place out of direct sunlight, following the temperature range on your kit label. Check visually about once a week. Pioppino mycelium typically begins as fine white threads, becoming more extensive as it colonizes the substrate. A mature block can appear mostly white to cream, sometimes with tan or brown coloration as it matures. Appearance varies by strain and substrate. Do not assume a dark, wet, foul-smelling, or brightly colored patch is normal.

3. What does “fully colonized” mean?

It means the mycelium has spread through the available substrate, binding the block together. Look for consistent growth throughout the bag rather than isolated patches of white. The exact timeline depends on strain, temperature, and the condition of the kit.

4. Look for pins — baby mushrooms

Pins are the first visible baby mushrooms. Pioppino pins can look like small clustered bumps that develop into slender stems with tiny rounded brown caps. Look closely near the surface of the block and along the inside of the plastic. **Photo needed:** original Mushroom Zen image of Pioppino pins beneath the bag, with an arrow identifying the pin cluster.

5. Open the bag for fruiting

Once the block is fully colonized, move it into suitable fruiting conditions. If pins are visible, make a small, clean opening in the plastic where they are developing, taking care not to damage them. Pioppino often fruits in clusters and may benefit from a top-opening or controlled opening method rather than the same side-X used for Blue Oyster. **Exact cut location and size must be finalized after our Pioppino kit trial.** Do not cut random holes throughout the bag.

6. Provide fruiting conditions

Give the mushrooms indirect light, regular fresh-air exchange, and a humid environment without soaking the block or allowing standing water. Pioppino generally favors cooler fruiting conditions than

warm-weather Pink Oyster. Use the temperature and humidity directions supplied with the final Mushroom Zen kit after trial validation. If caps deform or stems become excessively elongated, review fresh air and humidity.

7. Harvest and care for the next flush

Harvest clusters when caps have expanded but before they become overly mature. Use clean hands or a clean blade; remove the cluster gently without tearing deeply into the block. Refrigerate harvested mushrooms promptly in a breathable container. If the block remains healthy, keep it in appropriate fruiting conditions and monitor for another flush.

When to stop

If you see rapidly spreading green, black, or unusual fuzzy growth, wet slimy patches, or smell a strong sour or rotten odor, isolate the bag and contact Mushroom Zen with a photo. Do not open a suspect bag indoors.

PHOTOS TO ADD BEFORE APPROVAL

■ Fully colonized Pioppino block ■ Pins beneath the plastic ■ Marked cut location ■ Mature harvest cluster

Owner review note: confirm the precise fruiting opening, incubation/fruiting ranges, and harvest timing against our own Pioppino prototype before publishing to customers.