

Ascospores (Ask-oh-spore)

The ascomycete class contains the "sac fungi" and some yeasts. This is a general category of spores that have been produced by means of sexual reproduction in an ascus (sac). They are ubiquitous and are frequently found in the air after rain. Some may be saprophytic and plant pathogens while others are potential opportunistic pathogens and toxin producers. Many ascomycete spores are reported to be allergenic.