

Marasmius oreades (Bolton:Fr) Fries 1836



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Cap: 10–40 mm diam., central umbo cinnamon (10), outer two-thirds buff (52) to off-white, broadly convex, becoming applanate, with large central umbo, smooth to wrinkled.

Stipe: 40–70 × 2.5–6 mm, dirty-white to cream colour towards apex, cartilaginous, slightly pruinose, whitish to brown mycelium at base.

Lamellae: sub-distant, ca. 26, 2–3 tiers lamellulae, just free, cream, darkening with age.

Flesh: glassy, hygrophanous, becoming white when dry, up to 5 mm thick.

Spores: Smooth, ellipsoid, inamyloid, 8–10.5 × 4–6 µm.

Basidia: 4-spored, narrow, clavate.

Pleurocystidia: absent.

Cheilocystidia: absent.

Pileipellis: hymeniderm of smooth, sometimes irregular cells.

Substrate: litter in grass.

Habitat: grassland in parks and gardens, where it may form fairy rings.

Collections examined: no collections examined from Qld. Image from Vic.

Notes: *Marasmius oreades* is quite rare in Qld, but much more common in disturbed sites in the southern states, preferring cooler temperate conditions. It was first found in Moore Park, Sydney (1917) and is probably an exotic import arriving in soil with plants. DNA confirms it is the same species across the northern hemisphere and in Australia.