

# BREAD MOLD DATA SHEET:

For your information  
Share with your family and find out more!

Visit this website to see a video about bread mold:  
<http://www.Flowersbakeries.Com/kidsbreadmold.Html>

## Are bread molds plants?

- Yes, there are! Strangely, even though bread molds are plants, they DO NOT have chlorophyll. Most green plants use chlorophyll to make food during photosynthesis. Without chlorophyll, mold uses food made by others.

## What does bread mold look like?

- Bread mold looks like small black dots connected with silky white threads. The white threads spread around and develop the small dots. The dots are spore-producing organs. As the organs mature, thousands of tiny spores from each dot are spread around by the movement of air, like a dandelion.

## How does mold digest food?

- Mold digests food different than you and I do. The digestive fluids spread out in the food and break it down into simple nutrients. Then the simple nutrients pass through the cell membranes of the mold. Mold breaks down dead organisms into raw materials, so plants can use it in their food-making process.

## Why are blue-green bread molds important?

- Well, they have been around for awhile. Professor Alexander Fleming of London used the molds to make a wonder drug called penicillin in 1928. He was studying microorganisms that caused boils and other infections in people. In one of his Petri dishes a blue-green mold colony grew by accident. He was surprised to find that the boils were killed by the blue-green mold. A product of the blue-green mold destroyed the microorganism. Professor Fleming named the product the kills microbes penicillin. Pencillin kills many common bacteria.