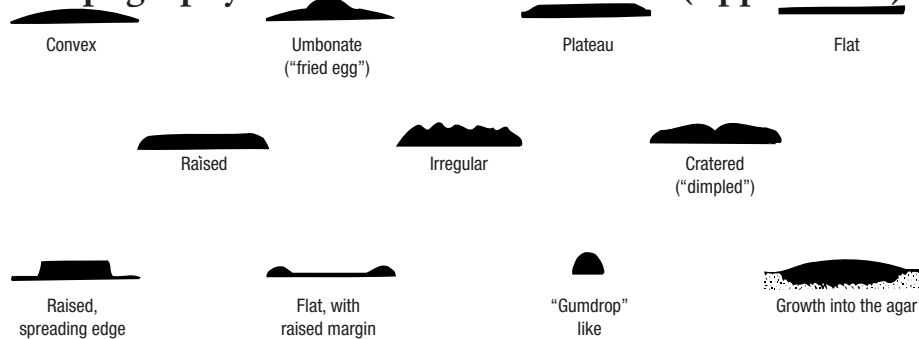


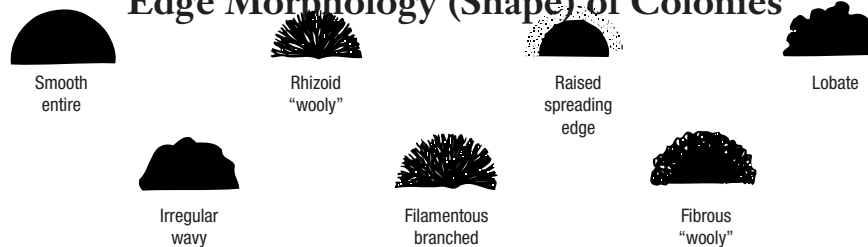
Identifying Descriptors for Microbial Colony Growth on Agar

To the untrained eye, microbial colonies growing on agar may look very much alike. However, any characteristic that allows one to tell the difference between one colony type and the other may be used. The following list of descriptive terms and diagrams is meant only as a guide to help make a distinction between colonies. If none of these terms “fit” a particular colony, feel free to use whatever word will allow that colony type to be recognized if seen again.

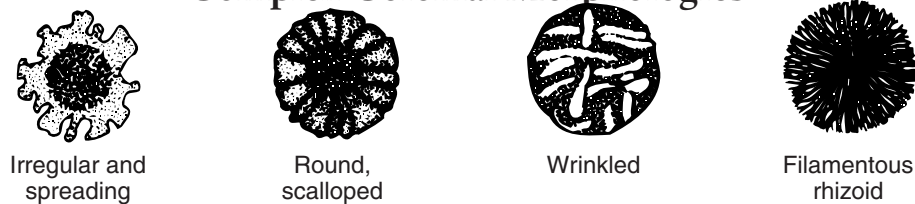
Topography or Elevation of Colonies (Appearance)



Edge Morphology (Shape) of Colonies



Complex Colonial Morphologies



Colony Texture/Consistency

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth | <input type="checkbox"/> Mucus-like | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rough | <input type="checkbox"/> Fibrous | <input type="checkbox"/> Granular |

Colony Color — Description

Color of the media in the area where the culture is growing and/or color of the colony

Norrell, Stephen A.; Messley, Karen E., *Microbiology Lab Manual: Principles and Applications*, 1st Edition, © 1997. Reprinted by permission of Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ.