

Yeasts

Yeasts are unicellular sac fungi that reproduce asexually either by mitosis or by budding. When yeasts ferment, they produce ethanol and carbon dioxide. yeasts are added to relatively sterile grape juice in order to make wine. In baking, the carbon dioxide given off by yeast is the leavening agent that causes bread to rise.

Candida

Candida albicans is a yeast like organism that causes infections of the vagina, especially in women on the birth-control pill. This organism also causes thrush, an inflammation of the mouth and throat.

Fungal Relationships

Fungi are parasites of plants and animals. **Lichens** are a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and a green alga. The body of a lichen has three layers: the fungus forms a thin, tough upper layer and a loosely packed lower layer that shield the photosynthetic cells in the middle layer.

In the past, lichens were assumed to be a relationship of mutual benefit: the fungus received nutrients from the algal cells, and the algal cells were protected from desiccation by the fungus.

