

SUSTAINABILITY

## MycoWorks to build world's first commercial-scale fine mycelium plant

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*This fall, the biomaterial technology company will begin operating at the world's first commercial-scale Fine Mycelium plant, based in the U.S. Image credit: MycoWorks*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Fungi leather producer MycoWorks is announcing a manufacturing milestone.

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This fall, the biomaterial technology company will begin operating at the world's first commercial-scale Fine Mycelium plant, to be stationed in Union, South Carolina. The 136,000-square-foot facility will employ more than 350 people, who will take charge of producing alternatives to luxury leather, for sale to partners such as French fashion and leather goods house Hermès.

"This is the moment the luxury industry has been waiting for; a plastic-free leather alternative that offers undeniable beauty and performance at scale," said Patrick Thomas, former CEO of Hermès and board member at **MycoWorks**, in a statement.

"Now that the challenge of supply has been solved, brands will move quickly to commercialize items made with Reishi."

### Making room for mushrooms

Set to operate for the first time on Sept. 20, 2023, the plant will supply partnering companies with millions of square feet of Reishi each year.

The Fine Mycelium-based material is part of a burgeoning movement to step away from animal products and focus on responsible and plant-based sources in luxury fashion, beauty and beyond. Thanks to this substance, Reishi is strong, durable and similar in physical feel to fine animal leathers but with a lesser environmental impact.

Biology is opening up a multi-trillion dollar market opportunity in materials. And mycelium, with its uniquely customizable structure, is the key to unlocking it.

MycoWorks CEO Matt Scullin joins our podcast to talk all things mycelium. Full episode:

<https://t.co/bhRmzYKh6r> pic.twitter.com/jbop7BIEJR

MycoWorks (@MycoWorksInc) June 13, 2023

In the factory, MycoWorks' Fine Mycelium will be cultivated and naturally grown in the controlled environment. The final product, sheets of Reishi, then goes out to luxury brands like the aforementioned artisanal leather label, French home furnishings brand Ligne Roset and various automotive giants.

Operating vertically and to scale, MycoWorks owns the technology involved, sidestepping licensing or outsourcing issues in the process. With full control over the development and creation, expertise at every level fuels its journey to market, completely plastic-free and in line with current ecoluxury efforts happening at large ([see story](#)).

In October 2023, all of this will be celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which will include an array of guests, including brand partners and government officials alike. There, education will be provided about the biomaterial technology, the factory's innovations and the ways that Reishi can be used.

"There have been two barriers to the decades-long search for a luxury leather alternative: product quality and scalable manufacturing," said Matt Scullin, CEO of MycoWorks, in a statement.

"In 2016 we eliminated the first by introducing Reishi to the world, and in September 2023 we are answering the question of scale with this state-of-the-art facility in South Carolina."

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