

Plant Markers



Simple crafts using inexpensive or re-purposed items are an easy, fun and colorful way to keep thoughts of gardening alive on rainy days or during the winter. Here are two ideas developed or adapted by VCE JCCW Master Gardeners. They can be used in window sill pots or in-ground gardens and work well indoors or outside. Thanks to Esther Delashmutt, Williamsburg Landing, and MG Karen Brooks for these ideas!



WINE CORK PLANT MARKERS: What a great way to recycle those wine corks! This is a good project any time of the year. You can paint the corks or leave them unpainted and just label them. Either way, it's a fun and easy project.

Materials Needed:

Wine corks, painted or plain

- Wooden skewers, 10" long
- Awl or sharp knife to make hole for skewer
- Glue-put a drop of glue before adding skewer
- Paints (if desired)
- Sharpie
- Twine (if desired)

Additional Supplies Needed:

- Plastic cup to hold cork skewers, if painted
- Paper plates, paints, sponge brushes, poly spray to seal & protect



Pre-session:

- Make sample herb marker, glue skewer to cork
- Pre-cut twine to decorate (if using)
- Pick several bright paint colors, hot pink, lime green, red (if painted)

At the end of your gardening season, bring your herb markers inside, re-paint, re-label, add new skewer if needed, and you are all set for next year.

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SPOON MARKERS: Colorful pictures of flowers or herbs can be decouped onto the bowl of a large

Spoon Plant Markers: Here is another way to recycle used items and create a lovely addition to a pot or to the garden...and reinforce plant ID as well!

Materials needed:

- Metal spoons (long handled spoon preferred). Available inexpensively at antique stores and thrift shops. Wooden spoons can also be used.
- Colored photos of plants and their names (from seed packages, catalogues or clip art)
- Mod Podge™ (Dishwasher Safe version if markers are to be used outdoors.)
- Small Sponges
- Newspaper, waxed paper for work surface
- Small containers, waxed paper squares or small foam plates for Mod Podge™
- Glass jar (use to stand spoons to dry)

Pre-Session:

- Cut flower pictures to fit bowls of spoons
- Decoupage sample and allow to dry.



Participants can select photos and decoupage them to the concave bowl of a spoon, using small sponges. Apply several coats of Mod Podge™. Stand spoons upright in a jar to dry. Spoons can be used indoors when thoroughly dry. If markers are to be used outside, apply several coats of Mod Podge™ (dishwasher safe) to seal and allow to thoroughly dry. Spray with polyurethane; allow to dry. Position spoon in garden so the bowl tilts backward, allowing rainwater to wash dirt from spoon.

