

The Royal Horticultural Society

Horticultural Advisory Services

August 2004



Garden Labels

Labelling in gardens has always been a difficult subject since economy and permanency do not coincide.

Wisley, Kew and other large gardens use engraved plastic laminate labels, either attached to the plant or on aluminium stems which are used at ground level. These are quite weatherproof but can become brittle in cold weather.

We also use galvanised stands for protection against rabbits and squirrels gnawing them. These labels are used in three sizes. The approximate sizes are: 106 x 71mm (4 x 3in), 88 x 54mm (3½ x 2in) and 75 x 40 mm (3 x 1½in), and are fine for a public garden but possibly too obtrusive for a private one.

Small white plastic labels, used with a waterproof ink, cannot be considered permanent as both ink and plastic tend to

degrade after a year or two.

A paint marker, used on thicker plastic labels, will have a longer life. Waterproof marker pens are widely available, often from label suppliers.

Anodised aluminium labels are quite permanent, used with an HB pencil.

Embossed tape from machines such as Dymo can be very durable, provided it is attached to a completely clean, smooth surface such as plastic or aluminium.

Zinc labels, with names written in acid ink, are very long-lasting.

When hanging labels on trees and shrubs it is best not to use wire as it cuts into the bark. Ties of small electrical cable fixed loosely are better.

Suppliers

Alitag Plant Labels

Andrew Crace, 21 Bourne Lane, Much Haddam, Hertfordshire SG10 6ER

Website: www.alitags.com

Labels in anodised aluminium, copper, teak and bamboo

Tel: (01279) 842 685

Bradenham Hall Gardens

Bradenham, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 7QR

Website: www.bradenhamhall.co.uk

Engraved plant labels

Tel: (01362) 687 243

The Essentials Company

April House, Davey Lane, Charsfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 7QG

Website: www.theessentialscountry.co.uk

Plastic, copper, wood, slate and aluminium labels and marker pens

Tel: (01473) 737 567

Gravograph Ltd

3 Huntingdon Street, London E16 1HS

Website: www.gravograph.co.uk

Metal and laminated plastics, cut or by the sheet, blank or engraved to order

Tel: (0207) 476 5861

Hortus Ornamenti

7 The Wren Centre, Westbourne Road, Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7RN

Website: www.hortus-ornamenti.co.uk

Copper plant labels and tags

Tel: (01243) 374 746

Labelplant

Unit 4, Block B, The Cowdray Centre, Colchester, Essex CO1 1BL

Website: www.labelplant.co.uk

Plastic and metal labels, waterproof pens, paint and other specialist markers

Tel: (01206) 768 668

Sheen Botanical Labels Ltd

Old Bakehouse Yard, Petworth Road, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HR

Website: www.sheenbotanicallabels.co.uk

Engraved plastic laminate labels and tree plaques. Can supply Braille labels

Tel: (01428) 656 733

Suregrave

Unit 4, Faraday Close, Pattinson Industrial Estate, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 8QJ

Website: www.suregrave.com

Suppliers of engraving machines and accessories, including metal and plastic laminate by the sheet or pre-cut

Tel: (0191) 417 4505

Two Wests & Elliott Ltd

Unit 4, Carrwood Road, Sheepbridge Industrial Estate, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 9RH

Website: www.twowests.co.uk

Aluminium, copper and "scratch-on" plastic labels

Tel: (01246) 451 077

Wartnaby Gardens

Wartnaby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 3HY

Website: www.wartnabygardenlabels.co.uk

Zinc labels, markers, acid marking ink and electric engravers

Tel: (01664) 822 549

Wells & Winter

Mere House Barn, Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5NB

Fax: (01622) 817 423

Labels in anodised aluminium, zinc, copper tags, engraved plastic labels and coloured plastic labels (including the black scratch-on type). Also supply markers, acid ink, tape printer electric engraver and metal punches

Tel: (01622) 813 627



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