

Make Your Own Plant Sign

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Many of us would have taken notice at the stainless steel plant signs that were used to display the names of plants in places like the Singapore Botanic Gardens and HortPark. In such signs, the text is engraved onto a metal plate that is bolted at an angle onto another metal strip which acts as a stalk. These signs are quite expensive to make and something that not all community gardeners or home gardeners are willing to spend to have them.

Below is a picture showing an example of a home-made plant sign which I have developed from the initial idea to look like those that we see in the Singapore Botanic Gardens and HortPark:



Right: A home-made plant sign that was made from very affordable materials.

Materials needed

There are only a few materials you need to get, which include a plastic corrugated board (available from stationary shops), a water-resistant marker and several disposable forks. Metal forks can be used as well as they are more durable when exposed to the weather. Cutting tools like a pair of scissors and a sharp pen-knife would also be required.



Left: To make a plant sign, all you need are a plastic corrugated sheet, some plastic/metal fork and a permanent marker.

Steps to follow

First, cut away the two side-most prongs of the fork as they are a little too thick for inserting into the gaps between the corrugated board. You can opt to use metal forks where the prongs are all slimmer and more uniform in size. But of course, plastic disposable forks are cheaper to buy and use. You can even pick up and wash those that have been thrown away after a buffet meal. Do our part to save the environment!

Right: The prongs of a fork on both sides are cut away as they are a little too thick to be inserted into the gaps of the corrugated sheet.

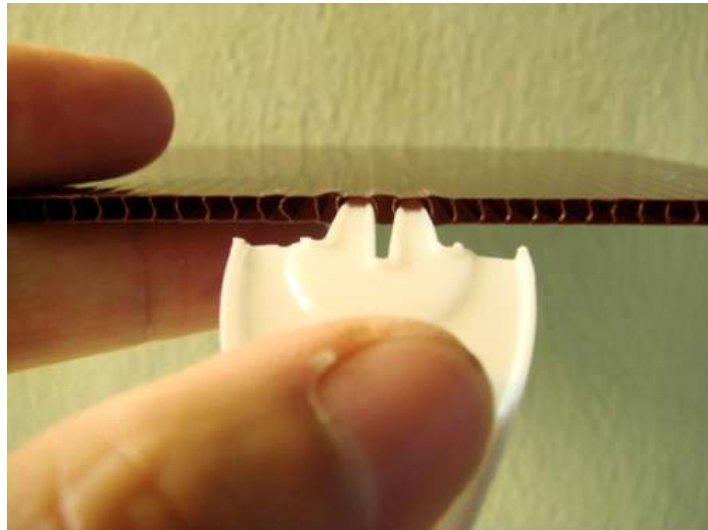


Depending on the size of the plant sign that you require, cut one of an appropriate size from the larger plastic corrugated board by using a sharp pen-knife. There are lines that run along the corrugated board and make sure that they run vertically down along the width of the plant sign. Below is a completed tag and you can see how the lines on the corrugated board are aligned.



Left: Make sure the lines found on the corrugated sheet run vertically down along the width of your sign.

Why must the lines run vertical along the length of the corrugated board plate? The reason's simple – there is a space formed between any two lines in the board and these are the spaces where the prongs of the fork can be inserted and secured! See the picture below:



Right: The lines should run vertical so that the gaps where the prongs of the fork are inserted into are located at the base of the plant sign!

Because the prongs of the fork are poised at an angle, the plate that is secured at the pronged end of the fork will be angled as well! To secure the fork onto the plate, one can try to apply some glue to stick the two pieces together.



Left: Since the prongs of a fork are positioned at an angle, the board containing the information about the plant will also be poised in the same way.

Use the water-resistant marker to write the required information (e.g. botanical and common names of the plant) onto plate formed by the corrugated sheet. You can also try other methods of putting the words onto the sign, such as, printing the text onto a sticker which can then be pasted onto the plate. You can even paint pictures on it! Let your creative juices flow!

When the tag is completed, it can be put into the ground. If you are using plastic disposable forks, it may be a good idea to make a hole in the ground by using a screwdriver and then slipping the plant tag's stalk into the hole.

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