

About Making Labels for the Plant Sale

The most important function of the label is to identify the plant. Second function is to give a description of the plant to the customer such as the category (annual, perennial, succulent, etc), height/shape (grows 1ft tall in a mound shape, tall background plant, etc), its attributes (bears red flowers, grown for its silver foliage, etc), requirements (full sun, partial shade, etc.), water needs (drought resistant, needs regular watering, etc), and anything else of note (easy to grow, spreads with time, etc.), Most of what is said here applies to **ornamental plants** in the plant sale, but It can also apply to berry plants, and herbs that are sold in the **edible plants** section.

It is highly recommended that if you have access to a computer, you print out the label information and attach it to the actual label (made from cut-up venetian blinds) with shipping tape or transparent tape. The advantage of shipping tape is that it is more resistant to moisture penetration. A big advantage of making the labels on a computer is that you can make multiple copies so if you are donating 6 or so of the same plant, you only type it out one time.

If you have to write out the information directly on the label, pencil is a better choice than pen. Pencil is erasable and holds up better to sun and moisture. Felt-tip pens are too coarse for conveying much information. Finer-tipped pens are better, but both tend to fade rapidly when exposed to sun.

Here are some examples of plant labels from recent sales.

CALENDULA. (*Calendula officinalis*) Annual plant but self-sows to act as a perennial. Also known as Pot Marigold. Grows about 1-2 feet in height. Bears yellow or orange flowers, many with darker centers. Pungent foliage, sometimes used as an herb. Needs sun. Grows best in the cooler months. Regular water. Easy to grow.

AGAPANTHUS (*Agapanthus hybrids*). Lily-of-the-Nile. Perennial plant, growing to 4 ft. in high, much used in landscaping. Bears clusters of light blue flowers in early summer on stalks arising from a big clump of strap-like leaves. Best in full sun. Moderate to regular water. In time, clumps increase and can be divided to yield more plants.

EUPHORBIA *characias*. Common name is Spotted Spurge. Perennial, grows into a large mound 3-4 feet high and wide. Needs sun. Handsome gray green foliage all year with umbels of bright chartreuse yellow flowers in early spring. Mediterranean native plant that thrives in our climate. Needs little summer water. Great solution for problem areas. **Two cautions.** Self-sows abundantly and white sap is irritating to the skin.

The [Sunset Western Garden Book](#) is an excellent source of information to consult for the description of each plant. It indicates the watering needs of each plant, as well.

