

by **Thinkenstein** on June 13, 2009

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intro: PVC GARDEN STAKES

Sometimes a gardener is his own worst enemy. That's the way I feel when I accidentally whack down something of value when I'm weeding with the string trimmer or machete.

To help me distinguish between the good and the bad, I usually mark new things I plant with stakes made of PVC pipe. PVC is white, so it makes a high-visibility marker. It also lasts a long time and can be reused over and over.



Image Notes

1. Little trees tend to easily get lost in the weeds.

step 1: Cut the pipe

Any wood saw, or hacksaw will cut PVC. It's a relatively soft material; so don't worry about damaging the teeth on your wood saw.

You can cut the pipe long or short, depending on the weeds you expect to find when you do your weeding.

Cut the top end square, for driving the stake in the ground with a hammer. Cut the bottom end at an angle to make a point.

Recycle scrap pipe before cutting into the new stuff.



step 2: Drive the stake in the ground

Due to the angle cut at the bottom, the stake tends to lean more and more to one side as you drive it in. Think ahead and start driving it at an angle, so that it will straighten up as it goes in.

Sometimes I drive three stakes around things I plant. That way, seedlings are physically protected from the trimmer string, no matter what direction they are attacked from.



This way



Not this way

step 3: The finishing touch

I am somewhat paranoid about breeding mosquitoes in stagnant water. The hollow pipes will collect rainwater in them. Once the stake is in place, I break off a little piece of Styrofoam, or wad up some aluminum foil and pack it in the top of the pipe. That keeps the mosquitoes out, even if water gets in past the plug.



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