

## MARKING EXPERIMENTAL AND DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

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Inexpensive, efficient and durable roadside signs and plot markers can be easily made by interlocking adjustable metal stencils. These stencils enable one to join letters or figures together quickly for immediate use. Any wording can be made, after which the letters can be separated and used again.

The stories of various experimental projects can be told by plot markers, roadside signs, and lettered cages. A water-proof box containing mimeographed sheets describing plot locations and treatments was employed at Northwood, North Dakota (Fig. 1). A visitor could take a leaflet and examine plots at his leisure. The use of mimeographed material enables the demonstrator to discuss in detail the objects of the experiments and explain any special features he wishes to emphasize. It is suggested that roadside demonstration plots might utilize this system.



Fig. 1. Roadside sign and water-proof box containing plot diagrams.

Where the simplicity of the plot does not require mimeographed explanatory material stenciled stakes (Fig. 2) can be employed. The writer recommends the use of a synthetic non-fading, fast drying plastic paint which gives a glossy, smooth finish. It remains a glossy white, presents a better contrast and dirt is easily wiped off the surface. Most of the NDAC potato insecticidal applications are made at night when there is no wind. The black plot numbers

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on a white background show up so clearly that the operator can remain on the tractor and do the application without assistance. Formerly an assistant had to find the plots with the aid of a flashlight and signal the tractor operator. The man hours saved in one year more than paid for the cost of the plot markers.

The cost for complete sets of stencils are as follows:

1 inch letters \$1.40	1 inch figures \$ .80
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1½ inch letters \$1.80	1½ inch figures \$1.10
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Extra letters and figures are approximately \$ .10 each.

The writer purchased two sets of letters and obtained a few extra o, e, and a's for his project needs as "Potato Research" etc. When making a roadside sign a complete line is assembled and stenciled in one operation. It was found that quick drying black enamel is more durable than regular stencil paste. It is better to leave the cover off for a few hours so that the enamel becomes thickened prior to using. A few "practice runs" on a smooth surface will enable the operator to determine the desirable consistency and right amount of enamel to use on the stencil brush.

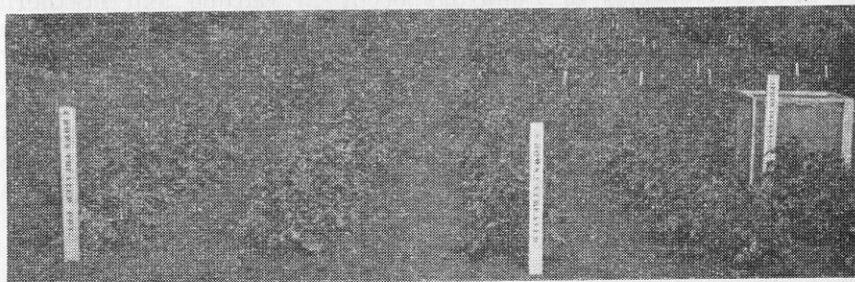


Fig. 2. Lettered stakes explaining a small demonstration plot. (These stakes obviate a box containing explanatory leaflets).

Black lettering on a white painted background was found most desirable. Plot markers used two years are still in good condition. Due to cultivation and spraying about 1% casualties occurred each year. The wooden stakes used for the markers were obtained without cost from discarded packing cases.

The boxes in which the stencils were packed bear no manufacturer's name but were obtained from the Fargo Rubber Stamp Works, Fargo, North Dakota and are apparently carried in stock by such concerns.