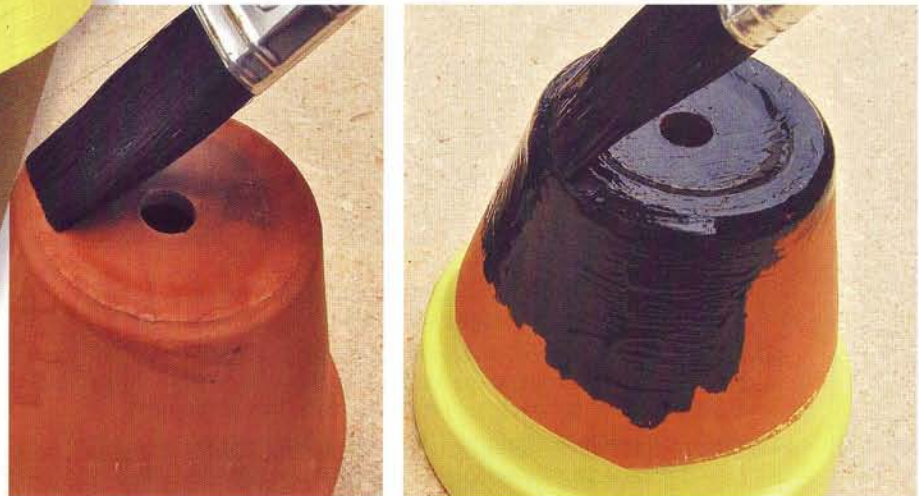# DIY plant tags

Mark Rayner has some great ideas for naming plants.

PLANT labels can be decorative as well as useful – and they're a great way to add a personal touch when giving a potted plant as a gift. Use some of these ideas to create your own labels or adapt the techniques to suit your own designs.

Chalk pot

This chalk-labelled pot is ideal for an indoor plant or using in the greenhouse. It also makes a fun gift. Seal the inside and outside of a clean terracotta pot with Resene Terracotta sealer and allow this to dry. Paint the rim with two coats of Resene Billy T, allowing two hours for each coat to dry. Then paint the side of the pot with two coats of Resene Blackboard paint, allowing half an hour for each coat to dry. Plant up with your favourite herb and label the pot with chalk.

Wire herb label

Create a nifty wire label in a flowing 'handwritten' script using galvanised wire and long-nosed pliers.

Cut a length of wire and use the pliers to carefully bend to spell out a favourite plant herb. Prime the metal with one coat of Resene Galvo One and, when that is dry, paint the label with two coats of Resene Nero.

Chilli label

This little chilli label made from a plastic plant label tells you what's growing; the exclamation marks remind you how hot it is.

Roughen both sides of the plastic label with sandpaper and prime with one coat of Resene Smooth Surface sealer and allow to dry. Paint the label with two coats of Resene Twenty Four Seven, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.

Paint 'Habanero' and chilli with Resene Get Reddy and with Resene Kermit.

More ideas for DIY labels

- Make small flag using bamboo canes for the flag stick and cut triangles of thin treated plywood for the flags. Prime and paint with testpot colours.
- Saw a wooden garden stake into small sections to make simple labels for the veggie patch – paint labels with a couple of testpots or write plant names with a thick permanent marker.
- Pressed aluminium is ideal for long-lasting plant labels – simply punch out a series of holes with a large nail to spell out the plant names. Fix the label to a wooden stake with a loop of galvanised wire.
- Old ice-block sticks make handy labels for seed trays. Write on them with a soft pencil or thin marker

Carrot label

This simple-to-make crop label is perfect for marking a row of newly sown carrots. Prime a Resene paint stirrer (or similar piece of flat wood) with a coat of Resene Quick Dry. When this is dry, give the stirrer two coats of Resene Malibu, allowing two hours for each coat to dry. Paint in the carrots with Resene Gold Drop and Resene Bilbao and allow to dry.

Strawberry label

This hanging label adds a quirky touch to the strawberry patch – and by swinging in the wind, it might help to deter hungry birds.

Punch a hole in a small paint tin lid with a large nail. Roughen the surface of the lid with sandpaper and apply one coat of Resene Smooth Surface sealer, allowing two hours for it to dry. Prime a Resene paint stirrer with one coat of Resene Quick Dry and allow it to dry.

Paint the stirrer and lid with two coats of Resene Retro, allowing two hours for each coat to dry. Paint a circle in the centre of the lid with Resene Riptide and, when it is dry, paint a strawberry with Resene Guardsman Red, Resene Bahia and Resene Bilbao. When all paint is dry, fix the upright and label together with galvanised wire. Position the upright at an angle in the ground so the hanging label can swing.