



## FLOWER – GARDEN Markers from Mini Blinds

### ITEMS NEEDED:

**Old Mini Blinds** (\*\* See note below about age of mini-blinds)

**Heavy Duty Scissors** (If small children you may have to pre-cut and then let them label with marker)

**Pencil** – to mark where to cut on the blinds (Or make a template from mini blinds for participants to use)

**Permanent Marker** (Water Resistant) (Rub A dub) or Enamel Model Paint

Writing style tip on marker for ease of writing on blinds

\*\*\* if using paint need small paint brush (s)

### Procedure:

1. Wash the blinds off with garden hose and brush outside before completing rest of steps if they are dirty. Let dry.
  2. Cut away the string holding your vinyl blinds together to separate them. (String could be re-used for other projects)
  3. Using Pencil to mark cutting lines. Make a template of mini-blink marker for quicker cutting.
  4. Using scissors cut each blind into a good length for plant markers.
  5. Using permanent ink markers or enamel paint, label your plant markers.
- OPTIONAL** – Round off tops of mini-blink markers – Make points at bottom of mini-blind marker for easy pushing in soil in garden or flower bed setting.

### Suggestions:

- For smaller children make the length longer so they have plenty of room to write.
- Use different colors of blinds for vegetables and flowers.
- Great gifts for Mother's day
- Have student's plant seeds in cups and then use their marker to mark what type of seed they planted.
- Great for "Make and Take" Programs such as Master Gardner, county fairs, community fairs



(photo source: DIY  
Instructables)



**Make sure the blinds you use are lead-free.** \*\* see note below

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reported that, imported vinyl (plastic) mini blinds contain high amounts of lead which can be hazardous to young children. These blinds were manufactured before mid-1997 and imported from China, Indonesia, Taiwan and Mexico.

Manufacturers used lead in blinds to stabilize the vinyl and make it less brittle.

Around 1997 the CPSC changed the law, promoted new packaging labeling, and encouraged families with young children to dispose of imported vinyl mini-blinds.

1996 or earlier imported blinds **should not be recycled into craft projects" --they should be discarded.**

VISIT: <http://nacdnet.org/education/resources/habitat/> for additional habitat education information 3-10  
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)