

Instructions for Making Rose Markers for the Garden

Presented by Joy Hairston at the Summer Rookie Meeting, 2009

Material List

- Quikrete Vinyl Concrete Patcher (40# bag or 10# bucket, available at Sutherlands)
- Water
- Plastic Letters (Poetry Stones by Magnetic Poetry, from Amazon, under \$20)
- Newspaper
- Container for mixing concrete
- Old towel
- Container of water (large coffee can will do)
- Plastic sheet (plastic tablecloth, garbage bag, etc.)
- Gloves (plastic, rubber, vinyl or whatever protects your hands)

Step by Step Directions:

1. The 40# bag of concrete patcher will make approximately 10-15 markers, depending on the size. I wouldn't make over 5 at a time unless you work very rapidly; the concrete starts to harden and it's difficult to do the letters.
2. Mix vinyl concrete patcher and water in container. I usually use a wheelbarrow but a large plastic dishpan will work.
3. Add water till mix is the consistency of brownie mix. Hold a glob in your hand....if it runs, it's too thin. It should relax in your hand but stay there.
4. On a flat surface covered with newspaper, shape into random stone shapes (oval, round, kidney shaped, irregular, etc.).
5. Smooth shape with your hand but avoid patting - that causes water to come to the surface and your letters will not be sharp and crisp.
6. Space letters before you make depression to be sure they fit. Try to keep stone size just large enough for letters.
7. After using a letter, immediately swish in container of water to remove any concrete that has adhered to letter. Blot on towel and it's ready for the next time you need to use it.
8. Cover stones with plastic and leave overnight or longer.
9. Uncover and if there are sharp edges, these can be removed with a stout metal tool (i.e. screwdriver, file, rasp, or even a trowel). Or you can leave the edges as they are; they won't show with a little soil or mulch around the edges.

These Are Permanent!!!!