

Pros & Cons of Labeling Options

Ground Stake

Pros:

- ◆ Variety of options on the market so you can choose which type is best suited for your special trees.
- ◆ Durable and weather resistant.
- ◆ Creates a nice, uniform look for your tree trail or arboretum.

Cons:

- ◆ Can be stolen or knocked out of place.
- ◆ When labeling a lot of trees, can become an expensive option.

Tree Tack

Pros:

- ◆ Harder to remove or steal since it is directly attached to the tree.
- ◆ Generally less expensive than stakes
- ◆ Allows label to be placed at eye level so it is easier to read.

Cons:

- ◆ Could cause damage or harm to the tree or create openings for rot or decay..

Tree Hugger

Pros:

- ◆ Allows label to be displayed on the tree without having to drill into the tree itself.

Cons

- ◆ If wanting to label a lot of trees, can be expensive.
- ◆ Tree may girdle over the spring as it grows.



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This is an informational brochure. It is not intended as an endorsement of products, supplies, labeling practices, or vendors.

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CUF Link Tips for labeling TREES



Start your website search with 'garden markers and plaques' and go from there to find a variety of ways to identify trees, recognize tree donors, or to add an educational component along a tree trail.

Labeling Options

Urban forestry managers have many options to choose from when considering unique tree recognition or identification.

- ◆ **Ground Stake** — the most widely used and commonly found type of plant label is the ground stake. There are several different types of stakes on the market. The variety of stakes ranges from metal or plastic with replaceable labels, to thick metal ones with engraved labels, to wooden stakes with labels mounted on them.
- ◆ **Tree Tacks** — tree tacks are an option for attaching the label directly to the tree itself. Stainless steel tree tacks with a growth expansion spring may not harm the tree and may also allow for future growth.
- ◆ **"Tree Hugger"** — the tree hugger is a labeling system that utilizes a stainless steel spring that is placed around the trunk of the tree. The spring expands as the tree grows and is held in place by the label. It can be changed as the tree matures.

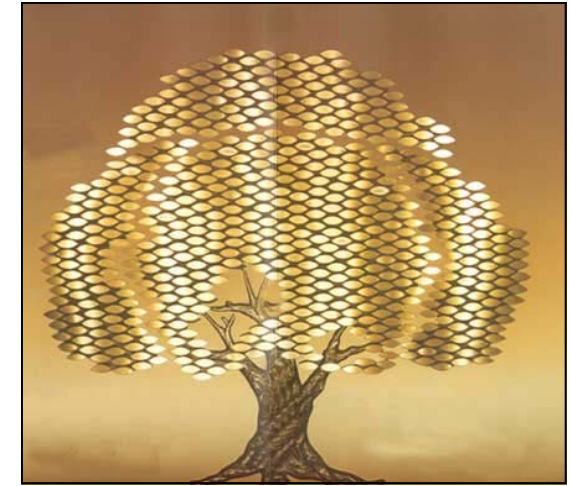


- ◆ **Other Labeling Options** — other options for creating tree labels include: attaching labels to blocks of wood, or engraving stones or pieces of rock with the information, and placing it at the base of the tree in the mulch. Another option is to make your own labels on a computer, laminate them, and attach them to ground stakes or wood blocks.



Top: Ground stake label with engraved signage.
Middle: Tree tack label with growth expansion spring.
Bottom: Engraved stone at the base of memorial tree.

Other ideas



Example of a donor recognition tree.

- ◆ A donor recognition tree can be placed in a park lobby, kiosk at a trailhead, or in a park landscape. Donor names are engraved on a leaf, possibly with a corresponding tree number so the tree can be found and identified.
- ◆ Create a map of all the memorial trees or the tree ID trail that identifies each individual tree with a unique number. Each tree could be labeled with a small tag displaying the number; all the information about the tree could be placed on smaller versions of the map available for users to take with them as they walk the trail.
- ◆ Design an interactive map for the community's website that identifies each tree by number and includes photos of the trees.