Use of Black Light to Recover Names on Plant Sticks

We’ve all faced the frustration at one time or another when the epi name on our plant stick that was written with a black Sharpie has faded to the point that it’s no longer readable. In some cases though, it’s possible to be able to read the missing name using black light.

You will need a black light powerful enough to do the job. There are several to choose from online and they are not real expensive. The one that I purchased on Amazon cost $14.99.

Update; they are now available starting at $10.00 from Amazon with a 100 LED UV light is available for $11.99 “GearLight UV Black Light Flashlight XR98”

The picture on the left was taken in room light. As you can see, the names are not readable, especially the stick on the bottom.

The picture on the right was taken with the black light flashlight. It’s not too easy to see in the photo, but I was able to decipher each of them. From top to bottom they are cryptocereus, ‘Bob Grimshaw’ and ‘Wrayi’. No writing was visible on the ‘Wrayi’ stick at all in normal light.

This process while not perfect does often work and for the price is worth every dime spent on a flashlight.