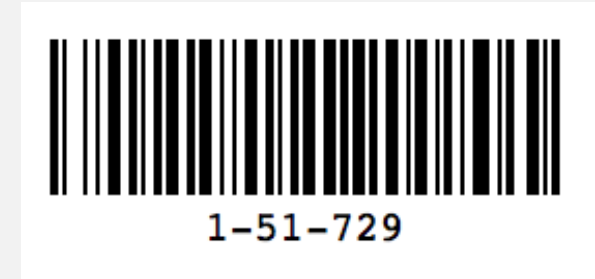# Reading Barcodes

Why Use Barcodes?

1) You have a large list of possible answers in your project

   - Saves time from scrolling through a long list of multiple choice answers or typing in the answer.

   - Plants may not necessarily be in numerical order where the auto increment function would be useful.

2) Quality control

   - Ensures that the plant you are measuring is actually the plant you need to measure.

   - Reduces the possibility of mislabelling data in the field.

   - When using a short answer question in your project, it ensures that answers are consistent.

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What Information Can You Contain In a Barcode?

➢Barcodes can contain numbers, letters, or words.

➢The more information that is contained in a barcode, the more complex that barcode is. This can affect the ability of smartphone camera's to read the barcode. For complex barcodes, you will need to print the barcodes at a high resolution.

➢**Important Note:** Each barcode can only be associated with ONE project question. You would need multiple barcodes to answer multiple questions.

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Materials you will need

- A printer
- Stakes
- Scissors
- A material to waterproof your tags

Setting up your Project to use barcodes

When creating your project, select **short answer** as the question type for any project question you wish to use barcodes for. Barcodes will not work with any other question format.

You do not create the bar codes from the project creation tool. We will cover how to make them in the next slide.

Remember: The barcode you create will be associated with only one project question

Creating Your Barcodes

Copy and Paste this URL into your web browser:

https://photosynq.org/codes

Then, follow the 4 easy steps that are prompted on the page. We recommend using barcode type "CODE128"

After printing your codes out, attach them to your stakes or other material you are using.

Since your codes and stakes will most likely be subjected to water and/or the weather, you may want to waterproof your barcodes.

You can laminate the tags, use clear packing tape, or any other way you may deem fit.

Reading barcodes in the field

- Select your project and start answering the project questions

- When you want to answer a question by scanning a barcode, select **Scan Code with Camera**. Your camera application will automatically open to be ready to scan the code.

Tip: If the camera doesn't open automatically, make sure that "Barcode auto-capture" is selected in the app **Settings** page.