

Reading Barcodes



Why Use Barcodes?

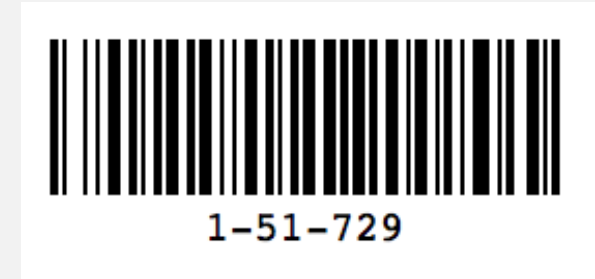
1) You have a large list of possible answers in your project

- 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.



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.



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

The screenshot displays the PHOTOSYNQ project creation tool. At the top, a green navigation bar contains the logo and links for Discover, Create, Forums, Learn More, and Help. The user's name 'Alyssa' and a 'Sign out' button are on the right, along with a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a progress indicator with six steps: Protocols, Questions (highlighted with a red circle and checkmark), Location, Description, Review, and Settings. The main content area is titled 'Create questions to be answered before each measurement (optional)' and includes a help icon. A text block explains that project questions are answered before every measurement and help document, categorize, and analyze data. A red note states: 'To avoid inconsistency, you should add all project questions before you start data collection!'. There are two buttons: 'Add a question' and 'Reorder questions'. A 'Back' button is located on the left. A modal window titled 'Short Answer' is open, showing a 'Question' field with the example 'e.g. what color is the leaf?' and an 'Answers' section with instructions: 'Data collector can enter text of their choice. (Also select this when using barcodes and auto-incrementing numbers which are set inside the Android App)'. A 'Save' button is at the bottom right of the modal. The footer contains links for 'LEARN MORE', 'ABOUT US', and 'SUPPORT'.

PHOTOSYNQ Discover Create Forums Learn More Help Alyssa Sign out Search

Protocols Questions Location Description Review Settings

Create questions to be answered before each measurement (optional). ?

Project questions are answered before every measurement and help to document, categorize, and analyze the data collected for your project.
To avoid inconsistency, you should add all project questions before you start data collection!

Add a question Reorder questions

Back

Short Answer close

Question

e.g. what color is the leaf?

Answers

Data collector can enter text of their choice.
(Also select this when using barcodes and auto-incrementing numbers which are set inside the Android App)

Save

LEARN MORE ABOUT US SUPPORT

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.

The screenshot shows the PHOTOSYNQ website interface for a 'Bar Code Test Project'. The page has a green header with the PHOTOSYNQ logo and navigation links: Discover, Create, Forums, Learn More, and Help. On the right of the header, there is a user profile for 'Alyssa', a 'Sign out' link, and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Bar Code Test Project' and 'Create Barcodes for Project Questions'. It features a four-step process:

- Step 1: Enter Data for Barcodes** - Includes a text area with the placeholder 'Each line is a new Barcode' and a tip: 'Tip: You can simply copy a spreadsheet column!'.
- Step 2: Select Barcode Type** - A dropdown menu currently showing 'CODE128'.
- Step 3: Generate Barcodes** - A blue 'Generate' button.
- Step 4: Print your Barcodes** - A blue 'Print' button.

Below the steps, there are three informational links:

- Why do I want Barcodes?** - Text: 'Barcodes will help to avoid mistyped information, specially when you are in the field.'
- Where can I use Barcodes?** - Text: 'Project questions which are simple text answers allow Barcodes to be scanned to add information'
- Which Barcode to pick?** - Text: 'The Barcode **CODE128** should be sufficient. Only use a different Barcode if you already use a specific system.'

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.

