

Your new MOISTURE METER is ready to use when you open the box. However, to realize the best possible results, read these instructions before operating your unit.

GENERAL: Soil moisture is measured by inserting the probe into the soil at each location to be tested. The unit is sensitive only at the tip; therefore, the reading obtained on the meter indicates the amount of moisture only at the probe tip. Now you can determine the moisture condition of your compost without having to remove any mulch or soil. Just insert the probe directly into the compost. Instantly, your MOISTURE METER will give you an accurate reading of moisture content.

CALIBRATION: It is quite important that the calibration of the unit is performed in the same compost composition and location as that in which it will be used. Take a sample of compost which is already at your ideal moisture content, this will vary depending on what your needs are.

Remove the black plug located on the back of the unit. Then insert the moisture meter so that the tip is in the center of your sample. Place a small screwdriver in the adjustment slot and adjust to a reading of "5" on the 0-10 scale.

APPLICATIONS: Sub-soil moisture mapping - This technique is used primarily for checking coverage and penetration of a sprinkler system. After a normal watering, take readings at different locations and at two or three different depths. Next, create a map plotting each of the readings. An ideal system would show equal readings at all locations and depths. Poor coverage would show erratic readings at multiple locations with the same depth. Poor penetration (or insufficient application) would be indicated by unequal amounts of moisture at the same location but different depths. Other applications of sub-soil moisture mapping would be locating leaking water lines, checking effectiveness of septic tank leach lines, locating surface water springs, and locating depths of shallow water tables.

BATTERY: The battery is included and is already installed. With normal usage it should last one season. When replacement becomes necessary, (unable to obtain a meter reading of 10 in saturated soil even with Calibration Trimmer in maximum clockwise position) replace with a standard AA cell. Care must be taken to maintain correct polarity of the battery. The plus (+) side is marked on the holder.

CHECKING FOR FERTILIZER LEACH:

Calibrate meter to center scale setting in area where soil is saturated either by rain or irrigation. Then, probe across saturated area. A high meter reading will be great (salts) fertilizer in solution. Lower reading is less (salts) fertilizer in solution.

CAUTION: It is important that the calibration of the unit be checked before relying on the chart. Unusual conditions such as extremely heavy clay soil would require somewhat lower meter readings than shown, while a fine, loose, sandy soil could require higher readings. Compost Instruments sample of compost which is already at your ideal moisture content, this will vary depending on what your needs are. Remove the black plug located on the back of the unit. Then insert the moisture meter so that the tip is in the center of your sample. Place a small screwdriver in the adjustment slot and adjust to a reading of "5" on the 0-10 scale.