

## HOW TO USE YOUR SOIL pH METER

1. Remove the top 2" of the surface soil. Break up and crumble the soil underneath to a depth of 5". Remove any stones or organic debris such as leaves and twigs because they can affect the final result. Thoroughly wet the soil with water (ideally rainwater) to a mud consistency.

*In order to obtain an even more accurate result with your Soil pH Meter, take the sample of soil to be tested from the ground and remove stones and organic debris. Prepare the sample by crumbling the soil into small particles. Measure 2 cups of soil from the prepared sample. Fill a clean glass or plastic container with 2 cups of distilled or deionized water and add the measured soil sample. Ensure the soil and water are thoroughly mixed and compact the sample firmly. Drain off excess water.*

2. Using the supplied pad, lightly shine 4"–5" (10–12cm) of the probe, carefully avoiding the bullet shaped tip, to remove any oxides that may have formed on the surface of the metal. Wipe the probe clean, using a cotton ball or paper tissue; always wipe away from the tip, towards the probe handle.

3. Push the probe vertically into the moistened soil to a depth of 4"–5". If it does not slip into the ground fairly easily select a new position. Never force the probe.

4. Twist the probe clockwise and counter-clockwise between your fingers several times to ensure that damp soil is well distributed over the surface of the probe.

5. Wait for 60 seconds to acclimatize the probe and note the reading.

6. If the reading is pH7 or higher: Remove the probe from the soil and wipe any soil particles from the surface of the probe. Reshine the probe and insert back into the soil at a different point avoiding the first hole made by the probe. Twist the probe two or three times between the fingers, as before, and wait 30 seconds before taking the final reading.

7. If the reading is below pH7: Remove the probe from the soil and wipe any soil particles from the surface of the probe. Do not reshine the probe. Insert the probe back into the soil at a different point avoiding the first hole made by the probe. Twist the probe two or three times between the fingers, as before, and wait 60 seconds before taking the final reading.

## TIPS ON TESTING

- Don't leave the probe in the soil longer than necessary because the metal electrode may pit, with the possibility of damage to the meter mechanism.
- Insure that the probe is wiped clean and well dried before storing in order to minimize the oxidation of the metal electrodes.
- Be sure to keep the probe away from metal objects.

USE THE METER ONLY IN SOIL. DO NOT PLACE THE PROBE INTO WATER.

## **TROUBLESHOOTING**

### **Erratic needle movement**

- Stones, organic matter touching the electrode.
- Sample area not sufficiently compacted (light soils and potting soils).
- Metal particles adhering to electrode after cleaning.
- Soil not adhered to the probe sufficiently.
- Probe too close to the side and/or the bottom of the pot.
- Soil or potting soil being tested too soon after re-potting.
- A houseplant fertilizer stick or tablet near the probe.