

## Description

MEA's Dot range of soil moisture products, like MEA's famous Bug range, makes the business of irrigation scheduling quicker and slicker.

GDots provide you with 'soil moisture at a glance'. No need for extra gadgets, computers, software, or telemetry - MEA's GDot is a soil moisture display device that can be read instantly from up to 15 m away over a wide viewing angle. And because the GDot's high-contrast yellow and black 'flip-dot' display can be read in most light conditions, you don't even need to stop as you drive past!



MEA's GDot display and soil moisture sensor costs no more than a tensiometer but has none of the maintenance issues. The GDot will run for several years on a pair of ordinary alkaline AA batteries available from your local hardware store. The GDot never needs adjustment or servicing and can be installed in minutes with the most unsophisticated tools.

The soil moisture tension sensor included in the price of the GDot is the industry-standard Watermark (or GBLite) sensor. This maintenance-free sensor works within the 5kPa to 100kPa growing range of most horticultural crops and soils.

The GDot display device is supplied ready-to-go with a 2m cable attaching it to the sensor. However, the display can also be located at the end of a crop row, outside a fence line or at the edge of a centre-pivot crop up to 100 metres away from the sensor. The GDot instrument is easily fixed to a post or hung from a wire; self-tapping screws and cable ties are provided.

GDots are housed in a tough scratch-resistant and UV-stable polycarbonate enclosure with an in-built O-ring seal and micropore vent to stop condensation fogging up the display on dewy mornings. A bright chilli-red base ensures that the GDot won't disappear into the green background of crop foliage.

The Watermark sensor cable is fitted with a robust latchable connector that plugs firmly into the GDot display during installation and is easily unplugged for sensor changeover. The lifetime of the Watermark sensor is typically 3-5 years; the GDot battery lifetime is expected to be of similar duration.

## How It Works

The GDot makes an AC resistance measurement of the Watermark sensor's internal resistance. This reading is translated into soil moisture tension (units: kPa) by comparison to in-built standard resistances. As soil moisture levels fall, so does the 'level' of the GDot's vertical yellow 'display bar'. Accurate soil moisture tension ranges are marked on the GDot display beside each of the seven dots.

## What You Need

You will need an auger or trowel to bury the sensor. The GDot can be hung from a wire, screwed to a post or mounted on the top of a length of one-inch galvanized water pipe (or any pipe having an outside diameter of about 33 mm). There is no need to switch on the GDot or to install batteries - it's already powered up, connected to the sensor and running when it leaves MEA's factory. Just dip the sensor in clean water for a minute or two before installation to ensure that the display responds.