

## USE THE METER ONLY IN SOIL. DO NOT PLACE THE PROBE INTO LIQUIDS OF ANY KIND.

### BASIC OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Press the Power Button to turn the unit on and off.

The toggle switch on the side of the meter moves the highlighted row up and down.

The select button advances the display to the highlighted row.

The back button reverts to the previously viewed screen.

### HOW TO TEST FOR MOISTURE

1. Insert the probe, vertically if possible, into the pot half way between the edge of the container and the plant stem. In potted plants the depth of penetration will be influenced by the size of the container; probe deeper in a larger pot, shallower in a smaller one. A good rule of thumb is to probe about 1/2 to 2/3 of the way down from the surface. For containers over 12" in diameter, place the probe closer to the stem (about 1/3 of the way from the stem to the edge of the pot.)
2. While pushing the probe into the soil you may note that the meter reading varies as the probe moves downward. This is because the soil moisture conditions are not uniform. Certain types of soil have a tendency to create moisture pockets, which might give you a false high reading in small areas of the soil. We recommend you take at least two readings in order to confirm your findings. (Note: probing aerates the soil, which is good for the plant.)
3. Note your meter reading when the LCD display remains constant for about 4 - 6 seconds.
4. Remove the probe from the soil.
5. Wipe the probe clean with a soft cloth or tissue before taking another reading and when testing is completed.
6. To preserve batteries the meter will turn itself off after about 10 minutes of inactivity. If the meter has turned itself off, press the Power Button to restart.

**Important: The meter is designed and constructed for test readings. The probe should not be left in contact with moisture for extended periods of time. Do not store or leave your meter probe in the soil.**

### HELPFUL TIPS

Please keep in mind when using the information in the Watering Guide:

1. Pot Size: Small pots dry out faster than large ones, so plants in small pots may need to be checked and watered more frequently.
2. Type of Pot: Soil in clay pots dries out faster than soil in plastic containers because baked clay is more porous.
3. Light: Plants in full sunlight dry out faster and use more water than those in partial sunlight or indirect light.
4. Location: Plants close to a radiator, vent or heater will dry out more quickly.
5. Overwatering refers to an excessive frequency of watering, not to the amount of water at a given time. The result of overwatering is, inevitably, root rot.

### CACTI AND SUCCULENTS:

These plants store water and require less attention than other plants. From March to September, do not allow the soil to dry out. Water when the meter reads 3. From October to February (dormant period) moderately water every 2-3 weeks, just enough to prevent shriveling. Always use tepid water; cold water can severely shock plants.

### LAWNS:

The greatest disservice you can do to your lawn is to water too lightly. Too little water will not accommodate the grass roots. If light watering occurs frequently, the roots will start to climb toward the surface seeking moisture. This results in burning, particularly during hot weather. The heaviest root concentrations are usually 2 1/2 to 3" below the ground level of your lawn. Therefore, you should probe about 3" below the surface. A meter reading of 5 would indicate a satisfactory watering. Provided that your lawn has reasonably good drainage, it is virtually impossible to over-water.

### GARDENS:

Most experts agree that plants should never be allowed to dry to their "wilting point". Watering is recommended when your test readings coincide with the recommendations in the data base. When you do water, water thoroughly. Root depths vary greatly with different plants and vegetables. When you check the soil moisture level after watering, the meter should read 10. This would indicate sufficient water has seeped down. In soils with poor drainage (too much clay) allow about 15 to 30 minutes before checking.

### OUTDOOR PLANT SOIL:

The readings given are for the average garden loam. Technically, loam is a soil that has characteristics roughly midway between those of sandy soil and clay soil. It is a mixture of sand, clay, silt and, if fertile, contains a good proportion of organic material (humus). Humus is the name given to all decayed organic matter, whether plant or animal in origin. It is a vital component of fertile soils. If your soil conforms to this description, use the Watering Guide numbers as indicated. If your soil is more on the sandy side, add one number to the "Ideal". If your soil has a higher percentage of clay, subtract one number from the "Ideal".

### LIMITED WARRANTY

This meter is warranted free from defects for one year (90 days for commercial/professional use) from the date of purchase. During this period the meter may be returned to Luster Leaf Products, Inc., 2220 Techcourt, Woodstock, IL 60098, with the original sales receipt and \$5.00 to cover shipping and handling. The meter will be repaired or replaced. During the initial 90 days of this warranty the dealer is also authorized to replace a defective meter. This warranty gives you certain specific legal rights that vary from state to state. This warranty does not cover abuse, accidental damage, repair by anyone other than Luster Leaf, or by consequential loss or inconvenience resulting from use of the meter.

### SERVICE

If service or repair becomes necessary after the warranty expires, return the meter to Luster Leaf with \$10.00 to cover service work, shipping and handling. Service will include all parts and labor as required.

This meter will operate for approximately 1,000 - 1,200 tests per battery set.  
Battery set = Three (3) #357 silver oxide, 1.55 volt.