

## **Decagon EC-5 Soil Moisture Probe – Installation**

When selecting a site for installation, it is important to remember that the soil adjacent to the probe surface has the strongest influence on the probe reading and that the probe measures the volumetric water content. Therefore any air gaps or excessive soil compaction around the probe can profoundly influence the readings. Also, do not install the probes adjacent to large metal objects such as metal poles or stakes. This can attenuate the probe's electromagnetic field and adversely affect output readings. Because the EC-5 has gaps between its prongs, it is also important to consider the size of the media you are inserting the probe into. It is possible to get sticks, bark, roots or other material stuck between the probe prongs, which will adversely affect readings. Finally, be careful when inserting the probes into dense soil, as the prongs will break if excessive sideways force is used when pushing them in.

### **Procedure**

When installing the EC-5 probe, it is best to maximize contact between the probe and the soil. There are two methods to accomplish this.

Insert the probes into the soil, making sure that the prongs are buried completely up to the black overmolding, as shown right.

The tip of each prong has been sharpened to make it easier to push the probe in - be careful with the sharp tips! The probe may be difficult to insert into extremely compact or dry soil. If you have difficulty inserting the probe, try loosening the soil somewhat or wetting the soil. Never pound it in!



### **Orientation**

The probe can be oriented in any direction. However, orienting the flat side perpendicular to the surface of the soil will minimize effects on downward water movement.

### **Removing the Probe**

When removing the probe from the soil, do not pull it out of the soil by the cable! Doing so may break internal connections and make the probe unusable.