

Using a Soil Probe

to test irrigation watering depth

Making a soil probe:

1. Purchase a metal rod, 1/2" – 5/8" in diameter and 42-46" long
2. Measure up 37" and bend the remaining stock in a 90° angle
3. Grind a point on the tip end
4. Mark distances from the tip end at 12", 24" and 36"

Using the soil probe:

1. After watering the plant, push the probe (pointed tip down) into the soil. It should go in fairly easy.
2. Note the depth of penetration.
3. This depth indicates how far water has penetrated.

- Ground covers up to 12"
- Shrubs 12" to 24"
- Trees 24" to 36"

4. If the water level is not deep enough, either:
 - add emitters,
 - change the emitters to a large volume of water, or
 - water for a longer period of time.