Soil Water Reservoir

- Soil Texture
- Soil Structure
- Rootzone Depth
- Infiltrated Rainfall
  - Volume and seasonal distribution

Soil Texture

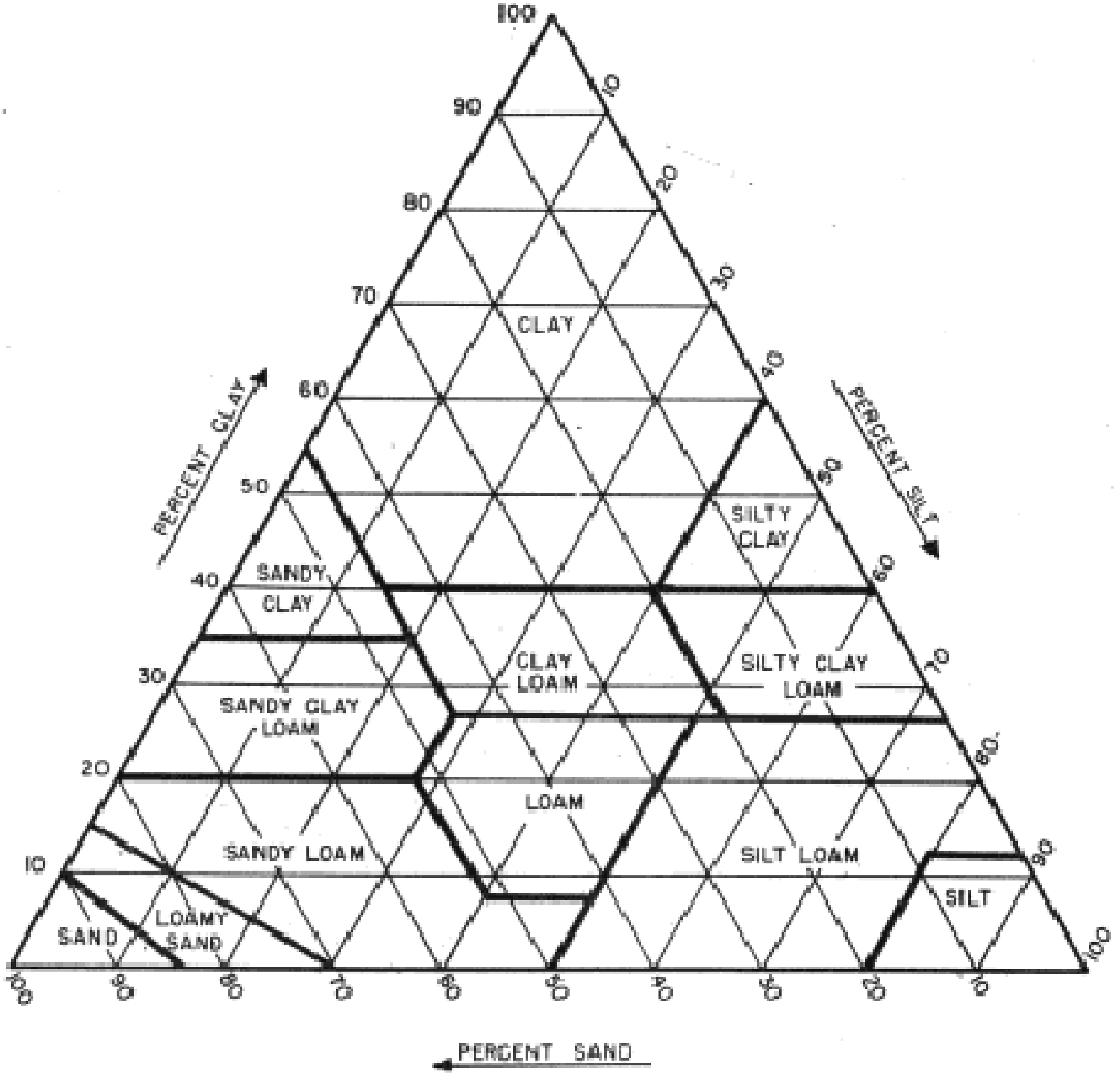
Relative proportions

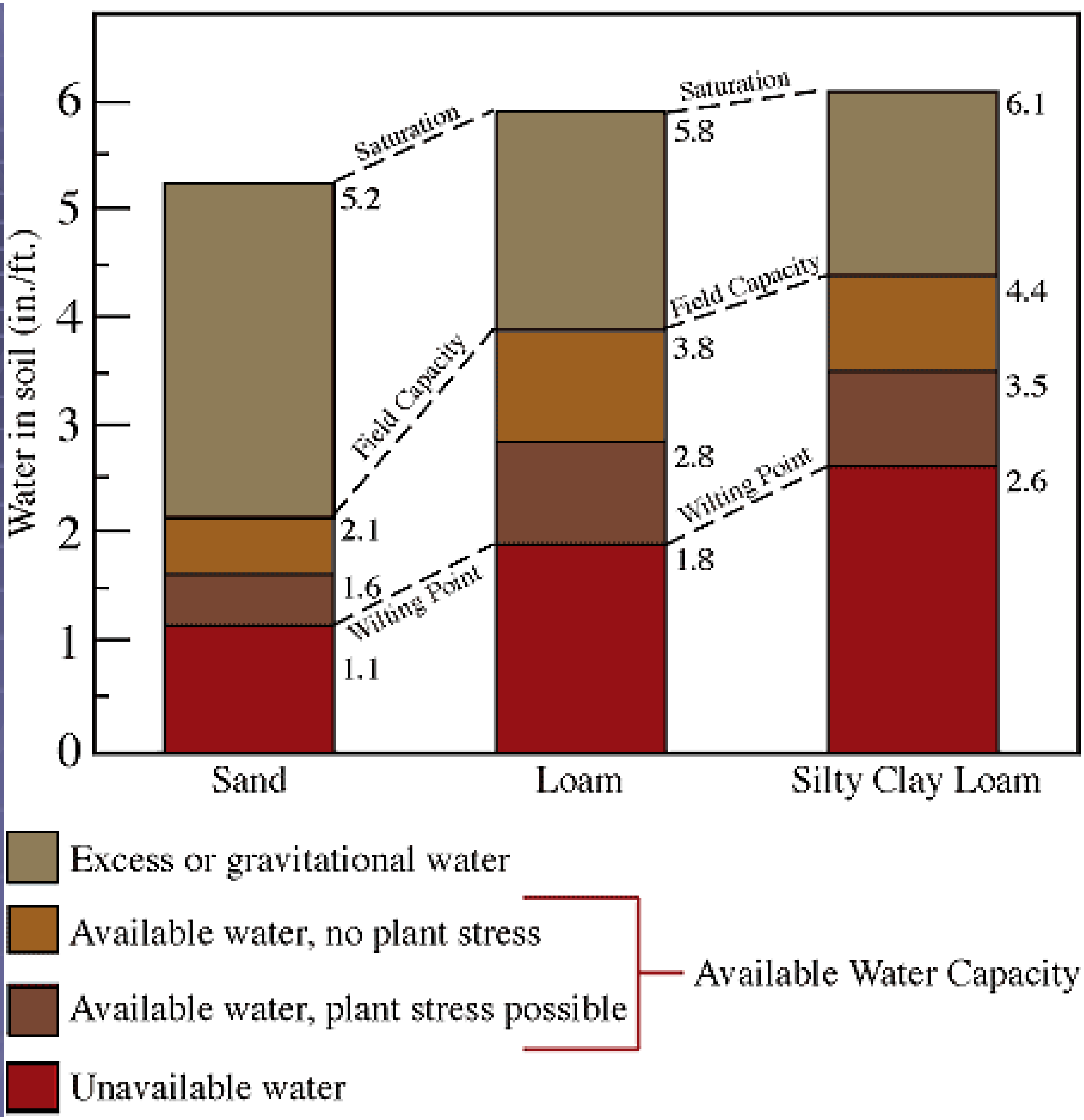
of

different particle sizes

Sand - Silt - Clay

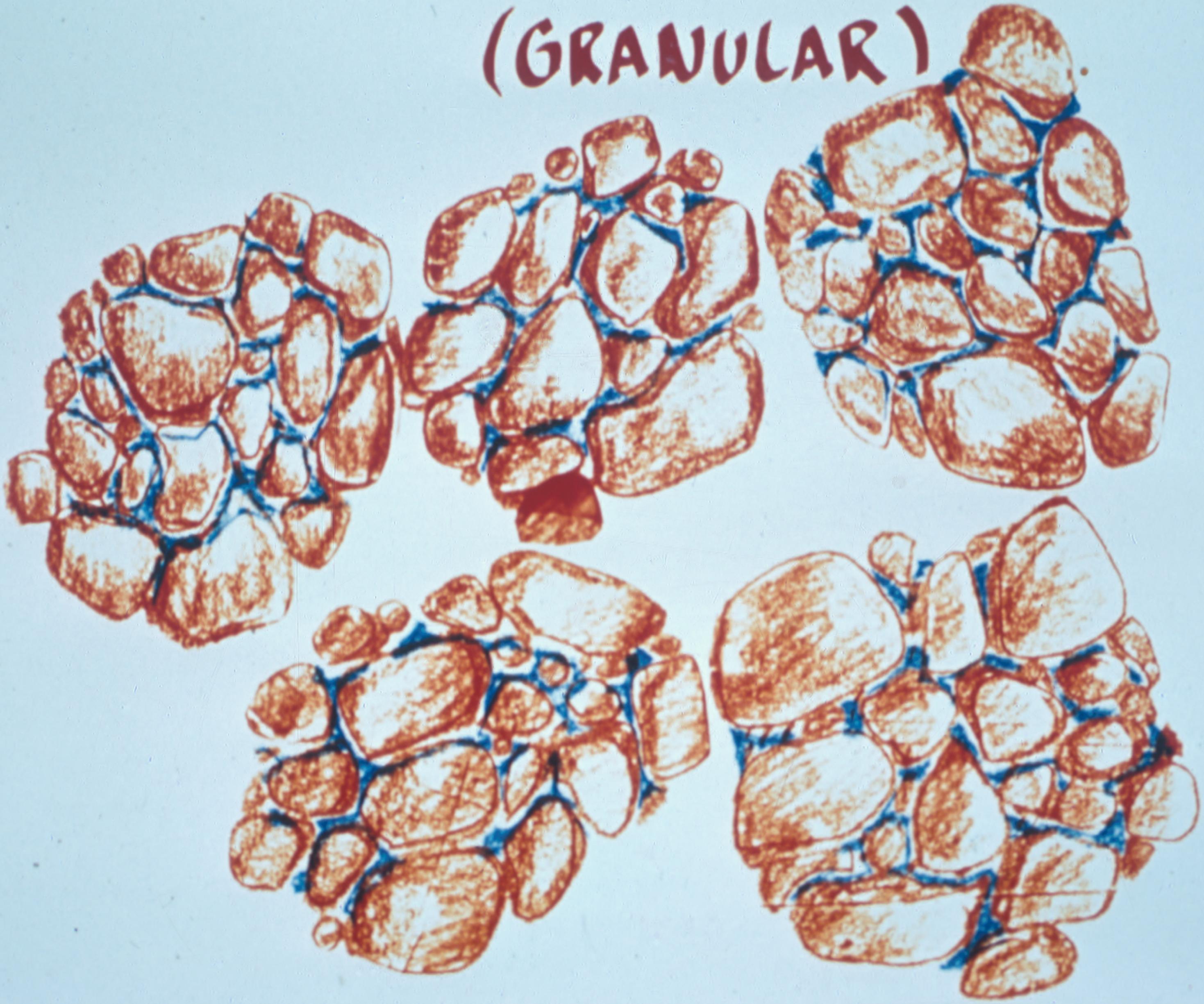
Soil Texture




Water in soil (in./ft.)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
Sand
Loam
Silty Clay Loam
Saturation
Field Capacity
Wilting Point
5.2
2.1
1.6
1.1
5.8
3.8
2.8
1.8
6.1
4.4
3.5
2.6
Excess or gravitational water
Available water, no plant stress
Available water, plant stress possible
Unavailable water
Available Water Capacity

GOOD SOIL STRUCTURE

(GRANULAR)



Rooting Depth Limitations

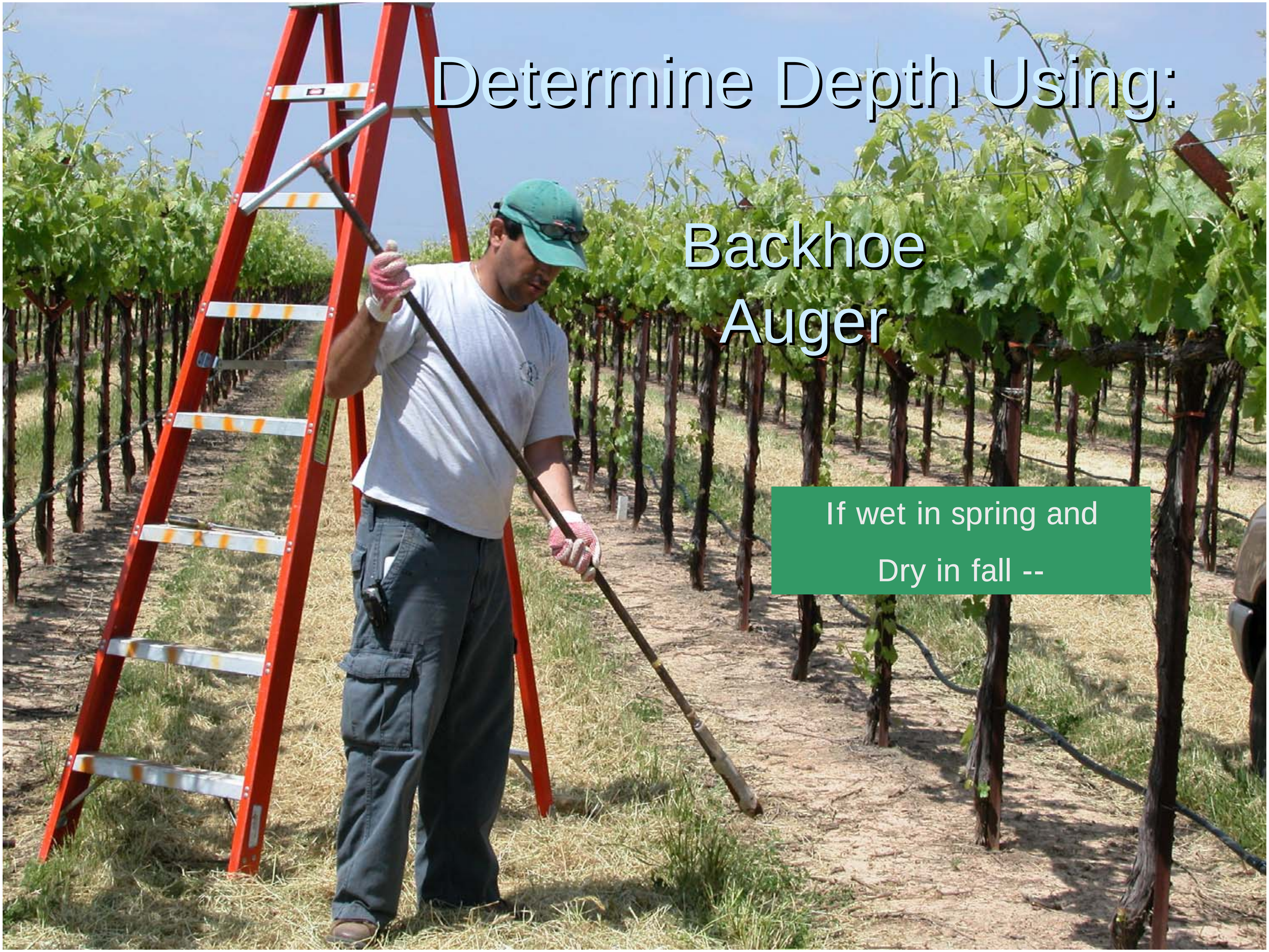
- Fine texture with poor internal drainage
- Dense, compact, or cemented subsoils
- Layered or stratified soil with abrupt change

- Rock
- Water table

Rootstocks

- Shallow rooting nature
  - 5C, 5BB, 1103

Determine Depth Using:



Backhoe

Auger

If wet in spring and

Dry in fall --

Rootzone Water Holding Capacity

- Water holding capacity X Rootzone Depth

- Ex. Clay Loam = 1.6 in/ft Available water
- Rootzone Depth = 5 ft

- 1.6 X 5 = 8.0 inches of available water

Using Neutron Probe Data

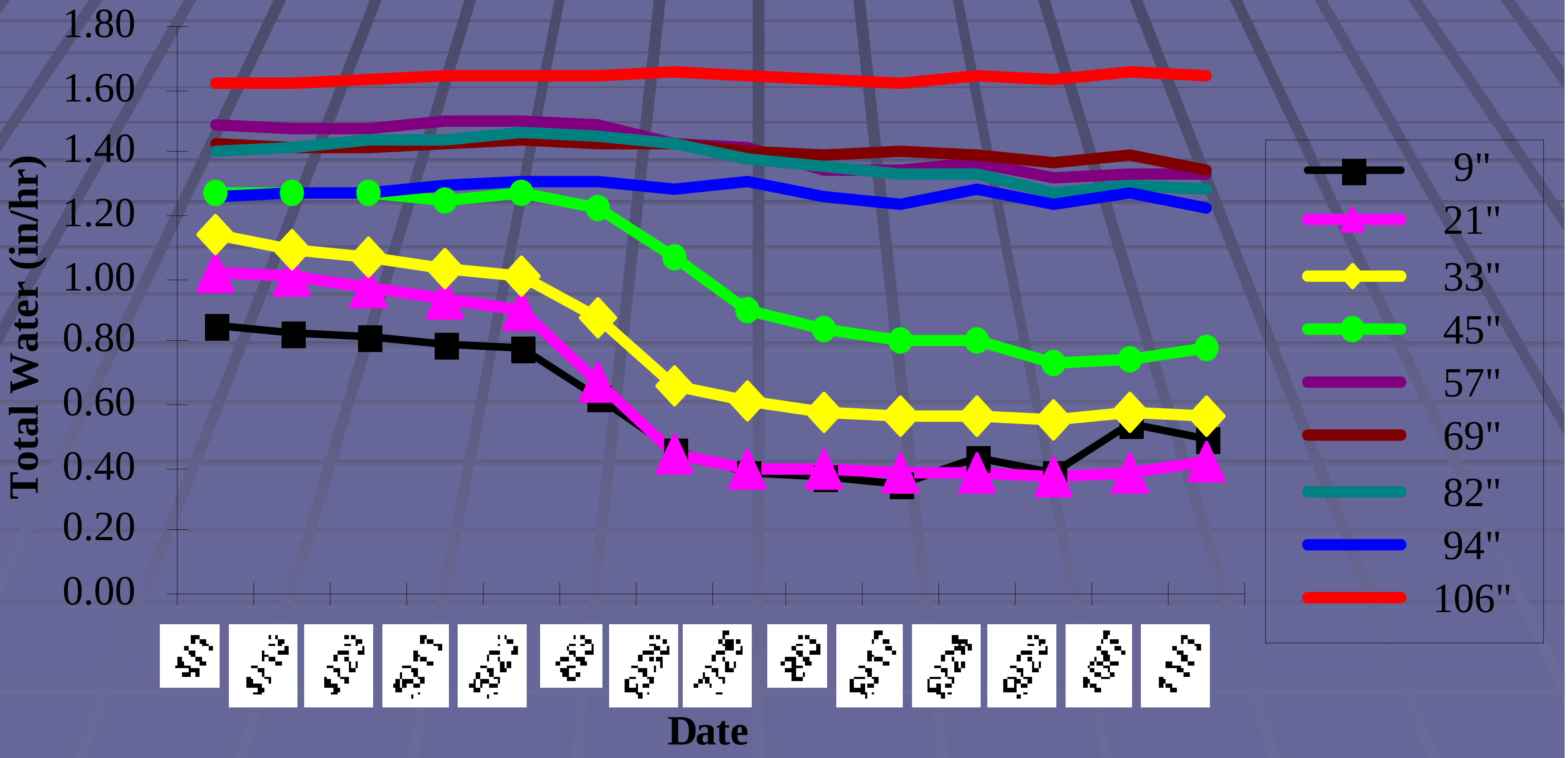


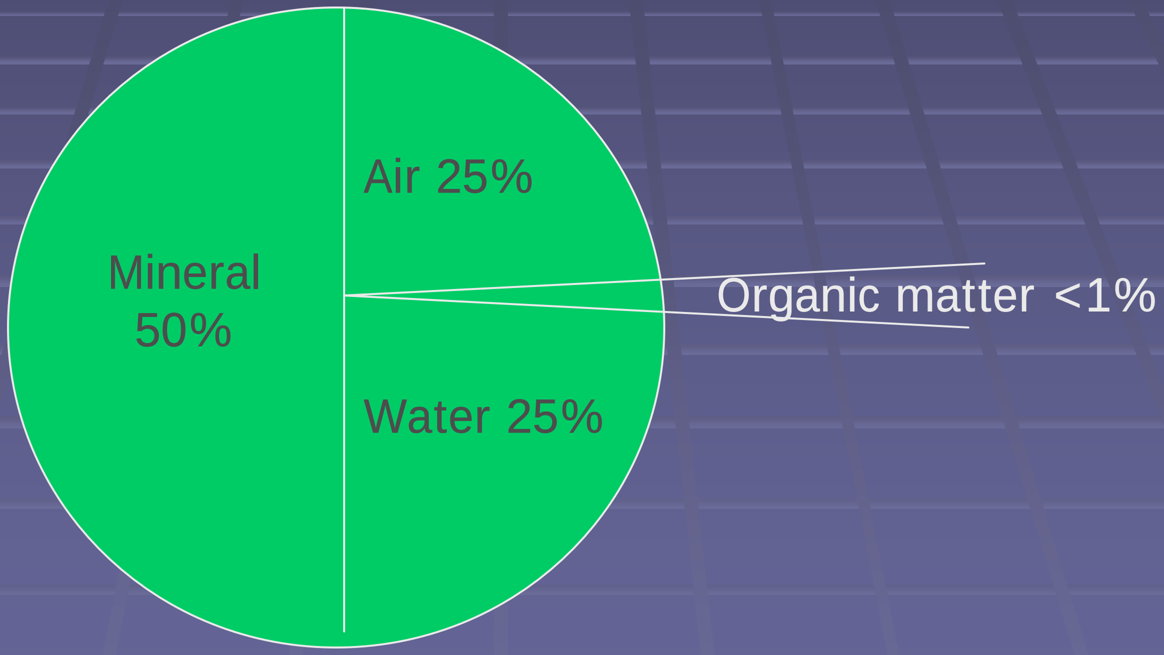
Figure B-2. Winegrape non-irrigated in/ft by depth

Measuring Water Sources

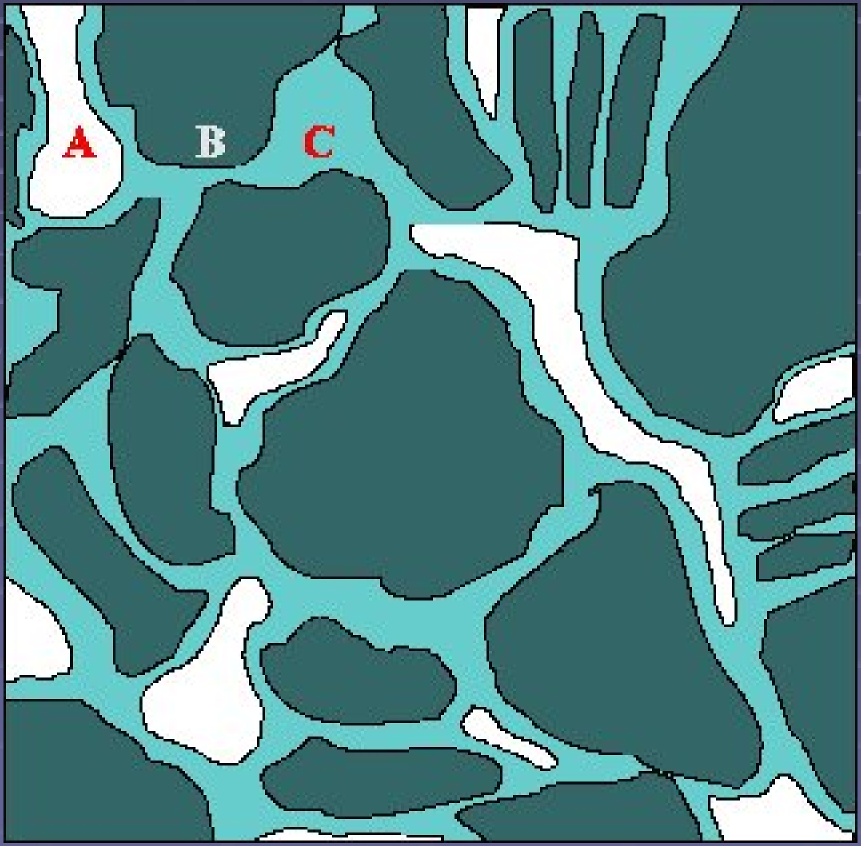
- Soil moisture
- In-season Rainfall
- Irrigation Water

Soil Constituents by Volume

At field capacity



Soil Moisture Matrix



Volume Units

Rainfall	inches/depth
Crop Water Use	inches/depth
Soil moisture	inches/depth

% = in / in

% x 12 inches = inches / foot soil

% x rootzone depth = inches water in rootzone

Available Soil Moisture

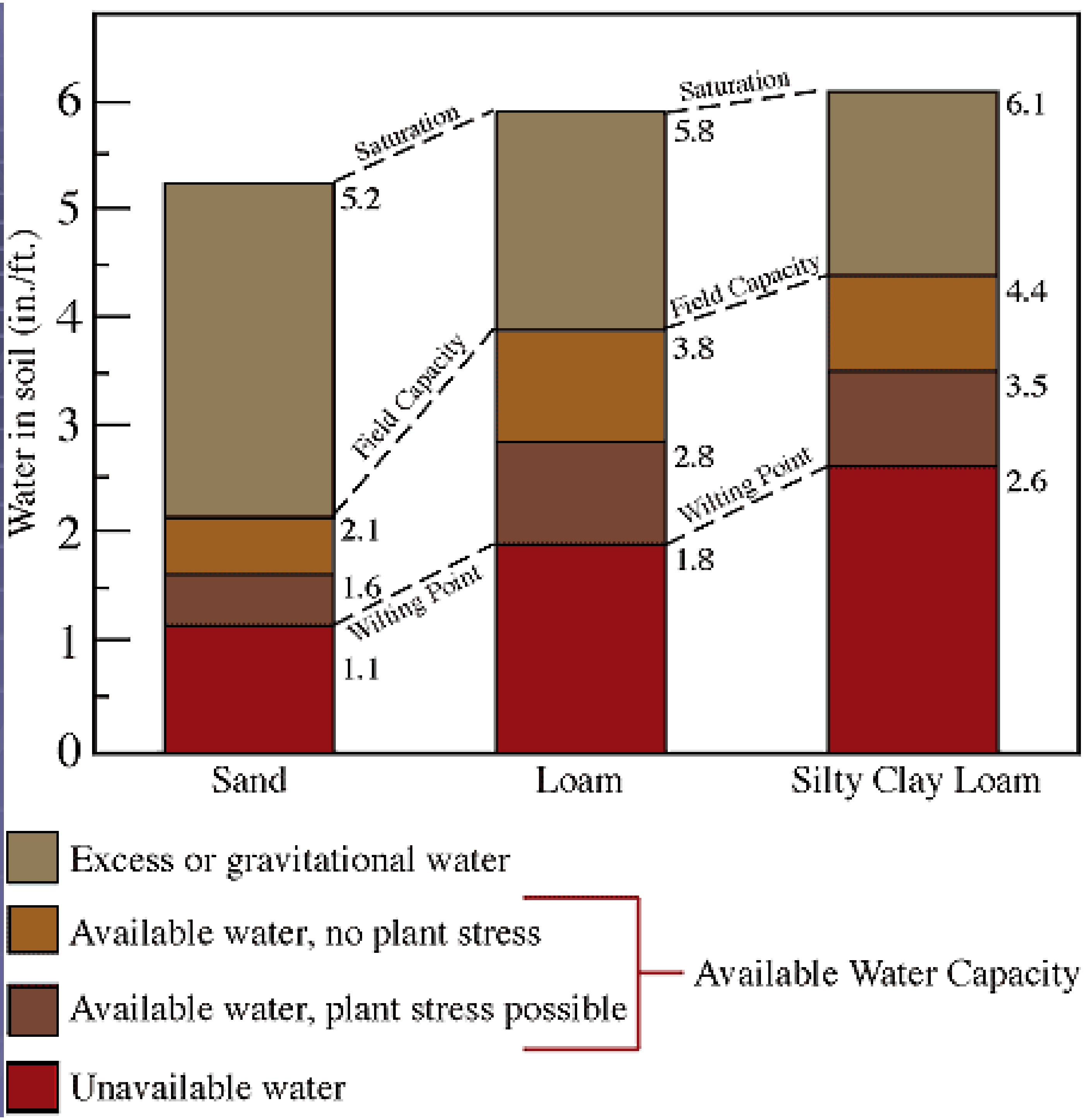
- Moisture contained in the soil which vines can remove
- All available moisture is not equally available

Available Soil Moisture

- Field Capacity – Perm wilt point

- Field Capacity
  - Upper limit when drainage ceases

- Permanent Wilting point
  - Lower limit when plants cannot extract moisture



Water in soil (in./ft.)
0
1
2
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5
6
Sand
Loam
Silty Clay Loam
Saturation
Saturation
Field Capacity
Field Capacity
Wilting Point
Wilting Point
5.2
2.1
1.6
1.1
5.8
3.8
2.8
1.8
6.1
4.4
3.5
2.6
Excess or gravitational water
Available water, no plant stress
Available water, plant stress possible
Unavailable water
Available Water Capacity

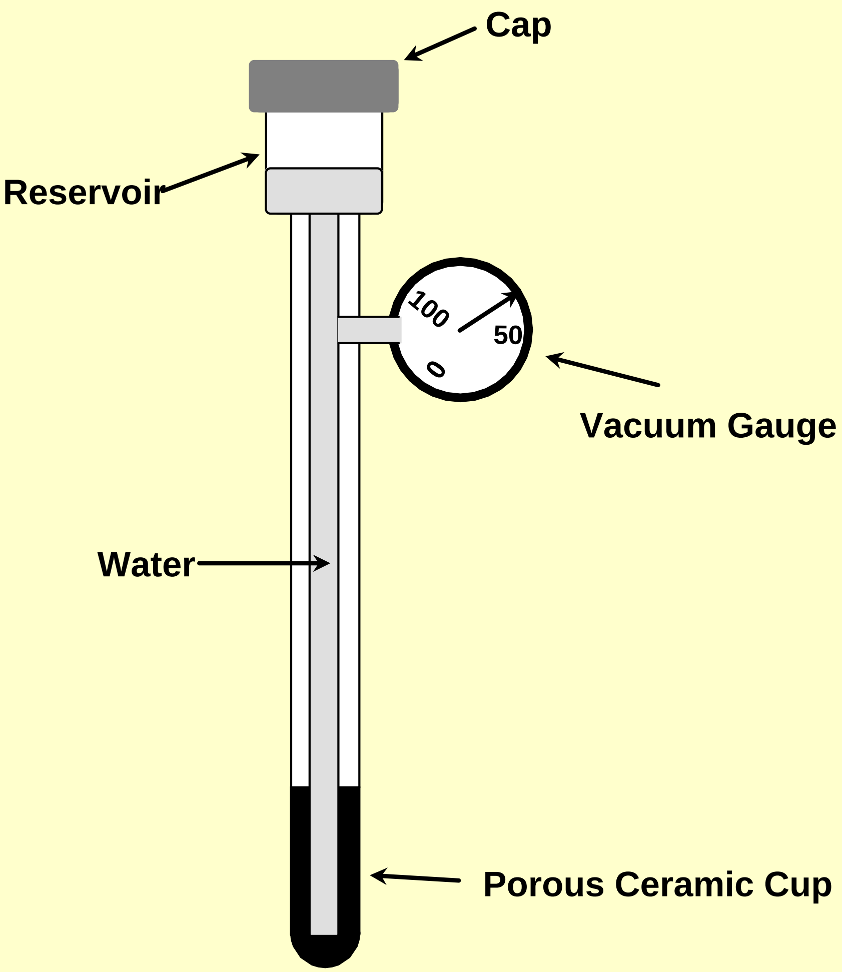
Soil Water Measures

- Soil Water Content
  - Quantitative
    - Percent water by weight or volume
- Soil Moisture Status or Tension
  - Qualitative
    - Centibars of Tension

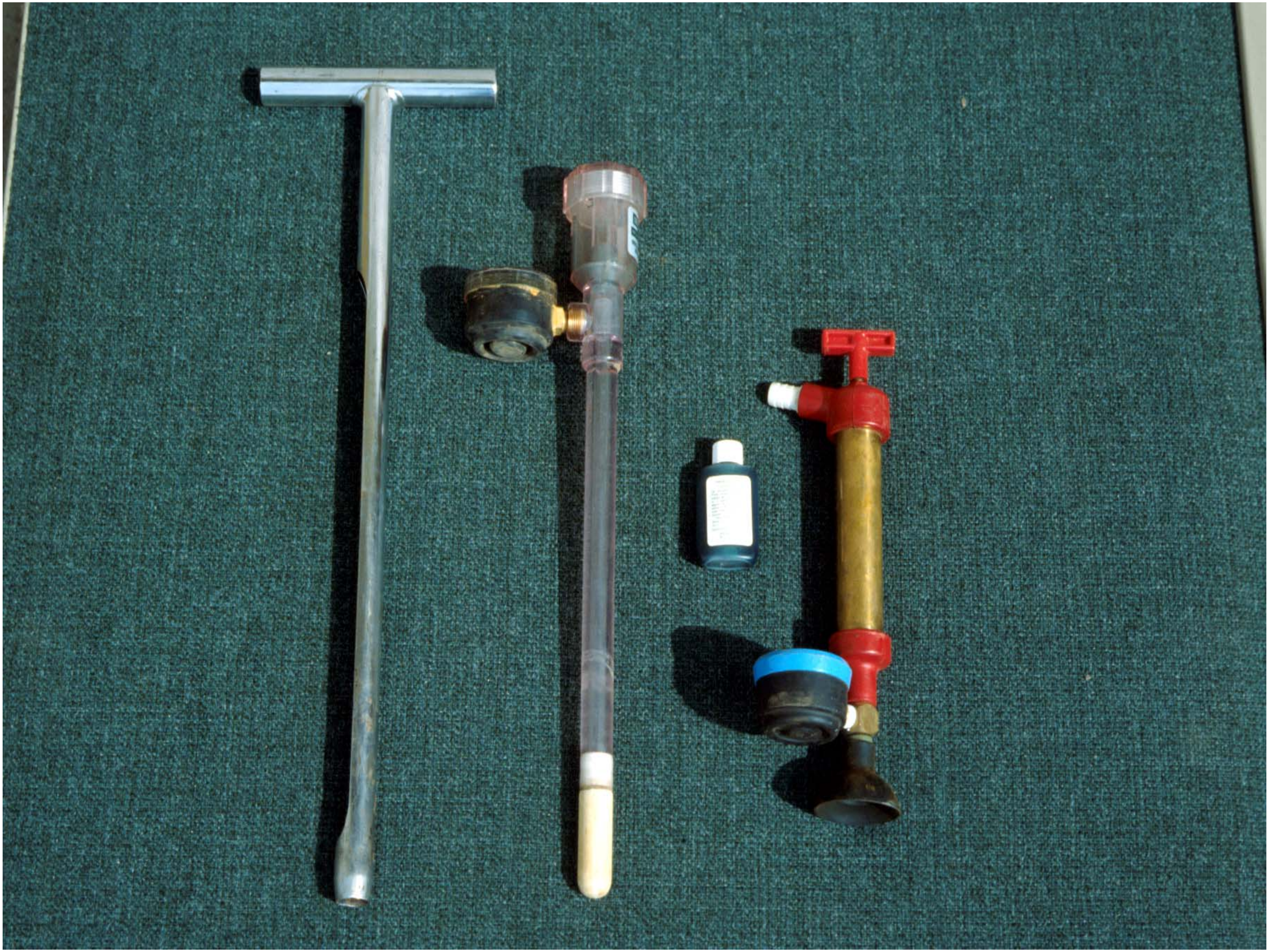
Moisture Status

- Tensiometers
- Gypsum Blocks

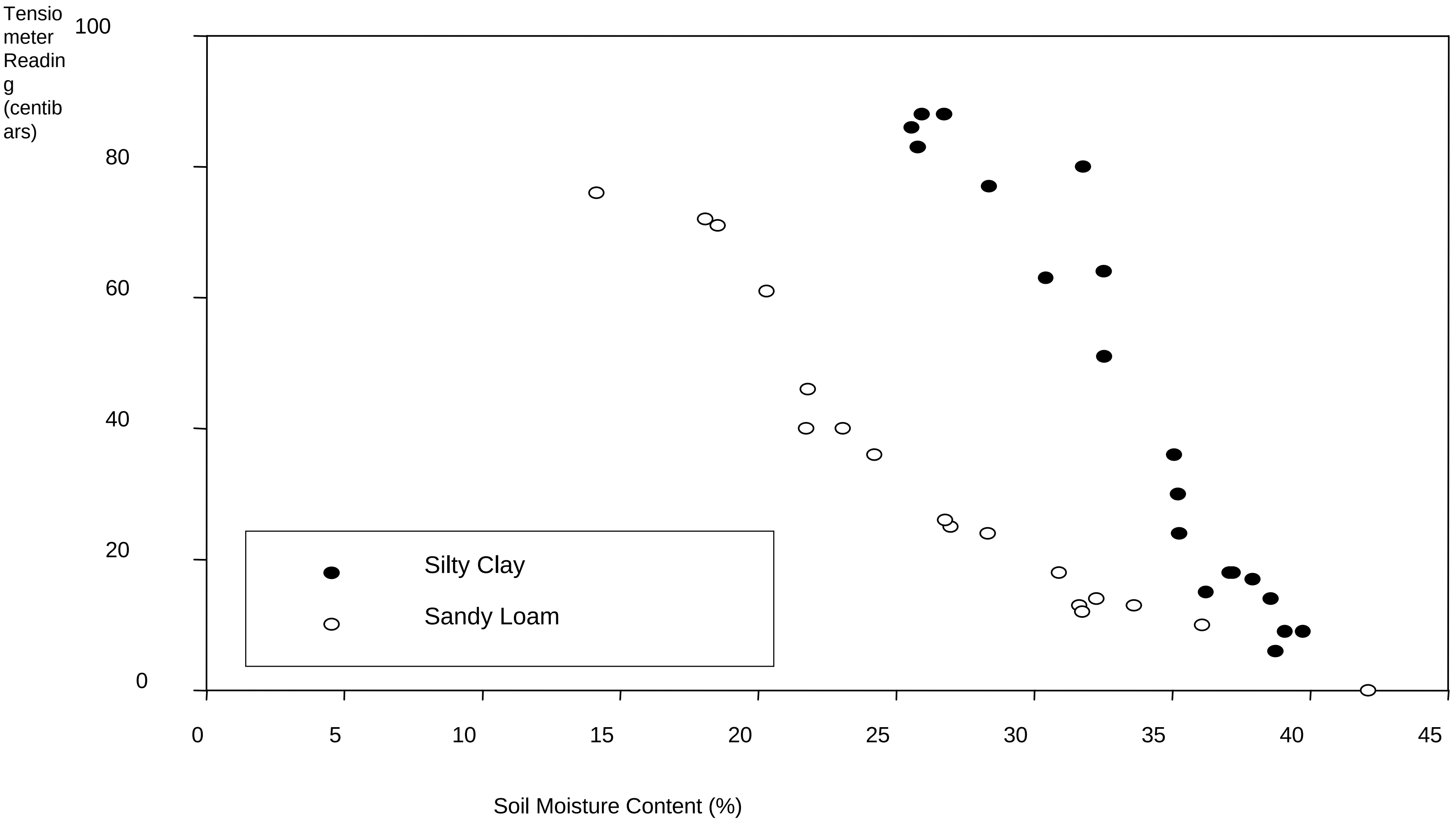
Tensiometer



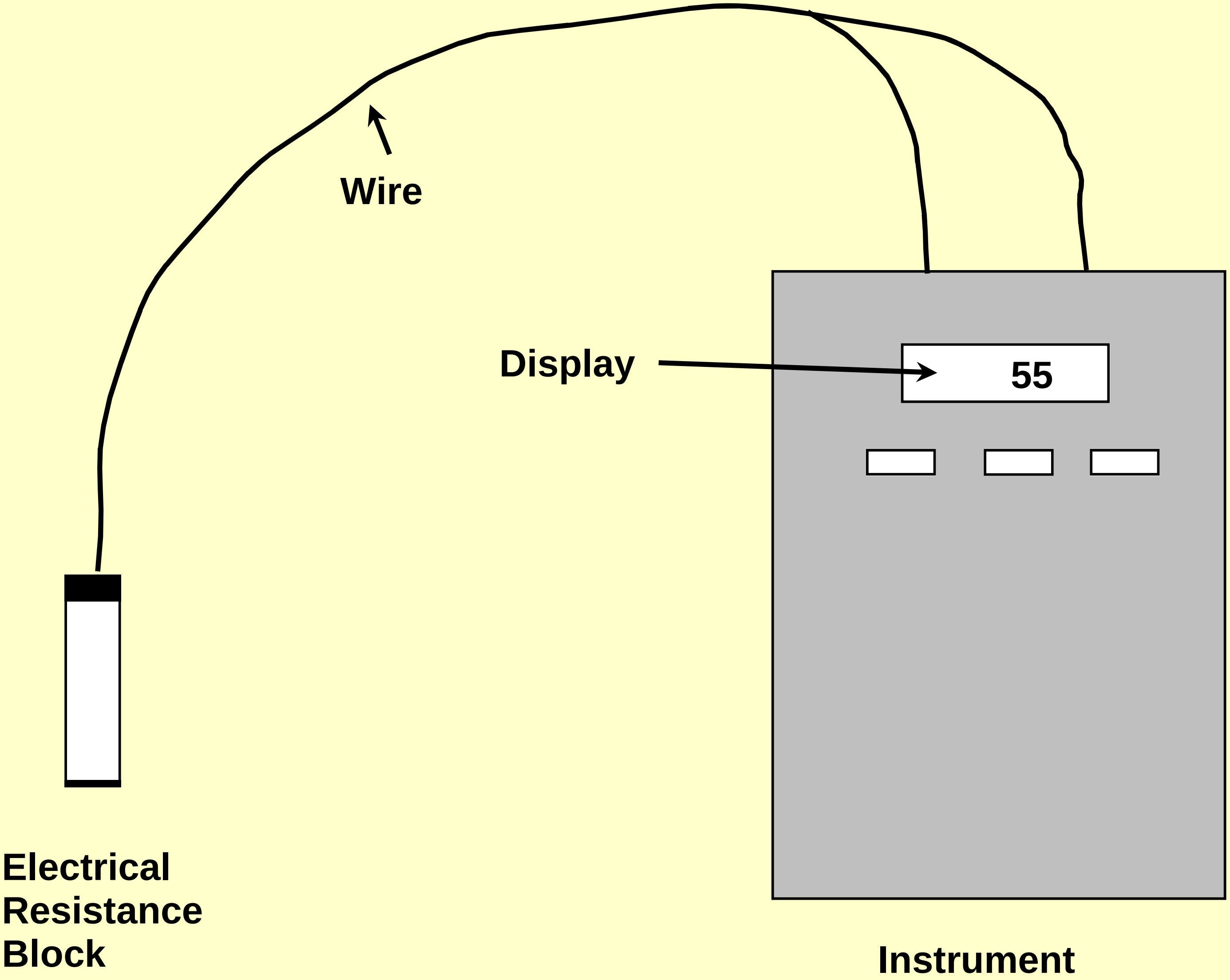
0 – 80 Centibars

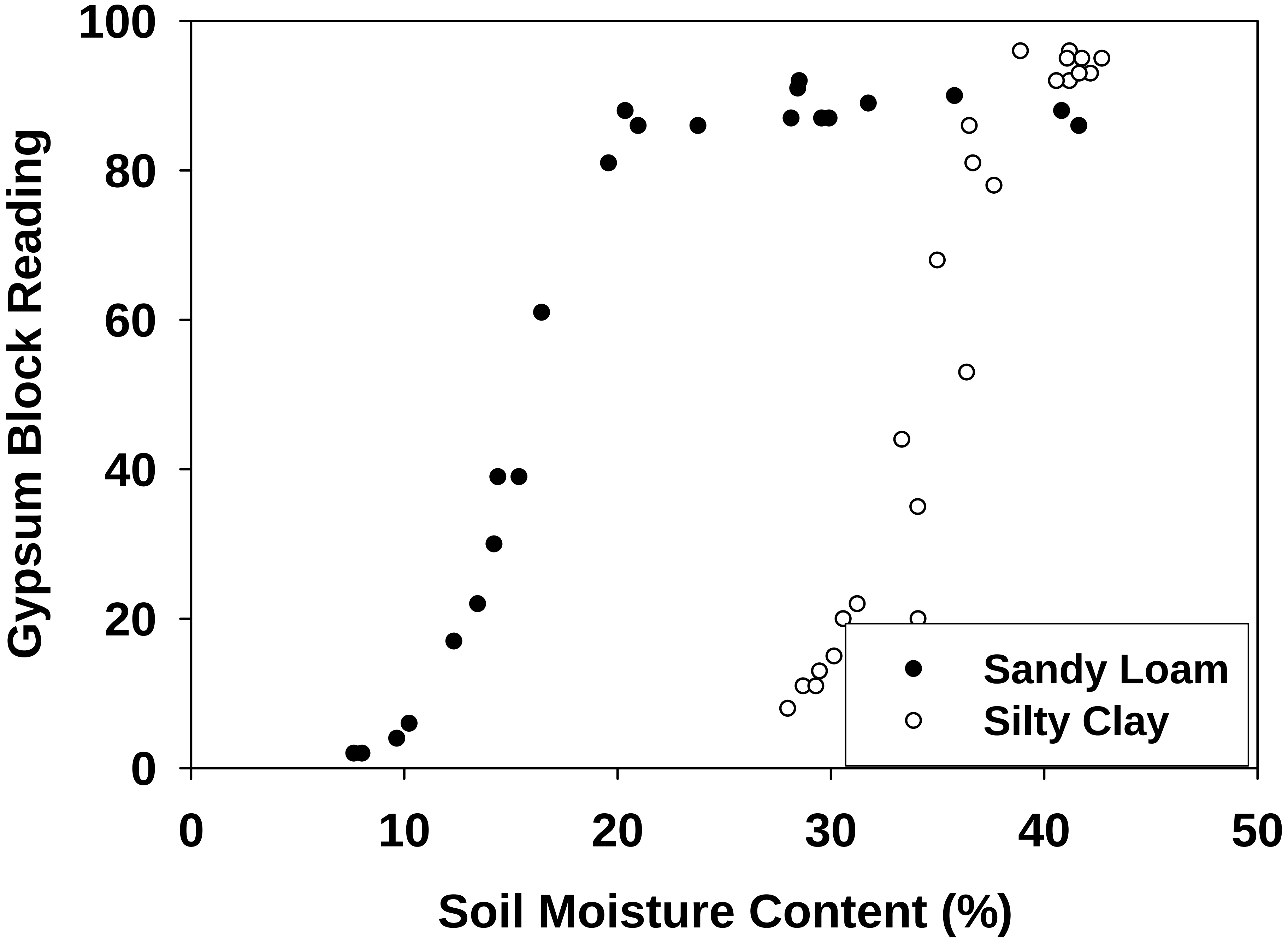


Tension versus soil moisture content for two soil textures.

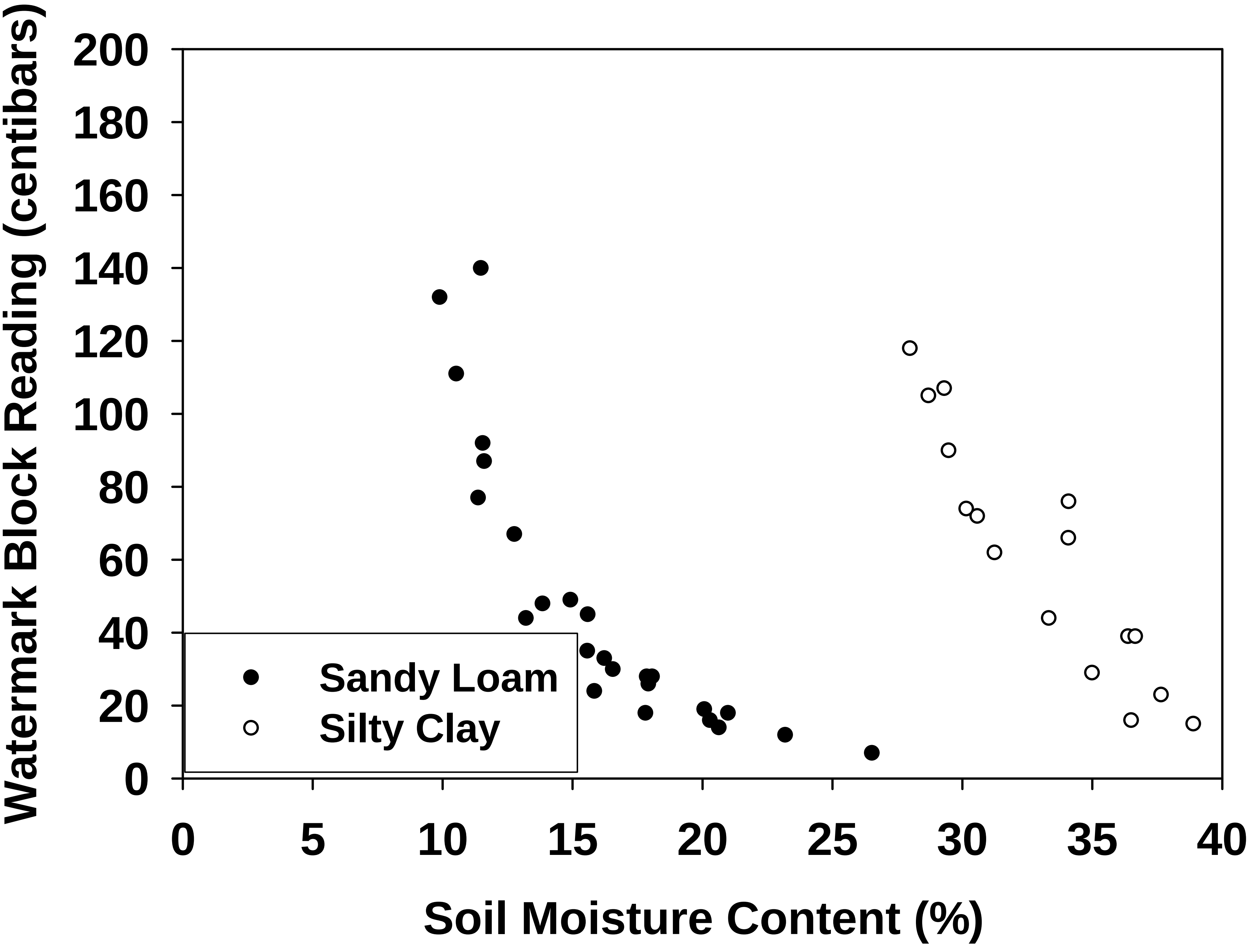


Gypsum Block




Gypsum Block Reading
100
80
60
40
20
0
0
10
20
30
40
50
Soil Moisture Content (%)
● Sandy Loam
○ Silty Clay

Irrometer Watermark Sensor/Meter


Watermark Block Reading (centibars)
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
Soil Moisture Content (%)
● Sandy Loam
○ Silty Clay

Soil Water Content
Direct / Indirect Methods

- Direct
  - Soil sampling by volume
    - Or--- by weight x soil bulk density
- Indirect

  any method which relates a “reading” to soil sampling moisture content

Indirect Methods

- **Soil Dielectric**

  Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR)

  Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

  Frequency Domain Reflectometry (FDR or capacitance)

- **Neutron Scatter**

Soil Dielectric

- The dielectric permittivity is a measure of the capacity of a non-conducting material to transmit electromagnetic waves or pulses.

- Dielectric Permittivity
  - Air = 1
  - soil minerals = 3 to 5

    (denser soils have higher apparent permittivities).
  - Water 81

Influencing Factors

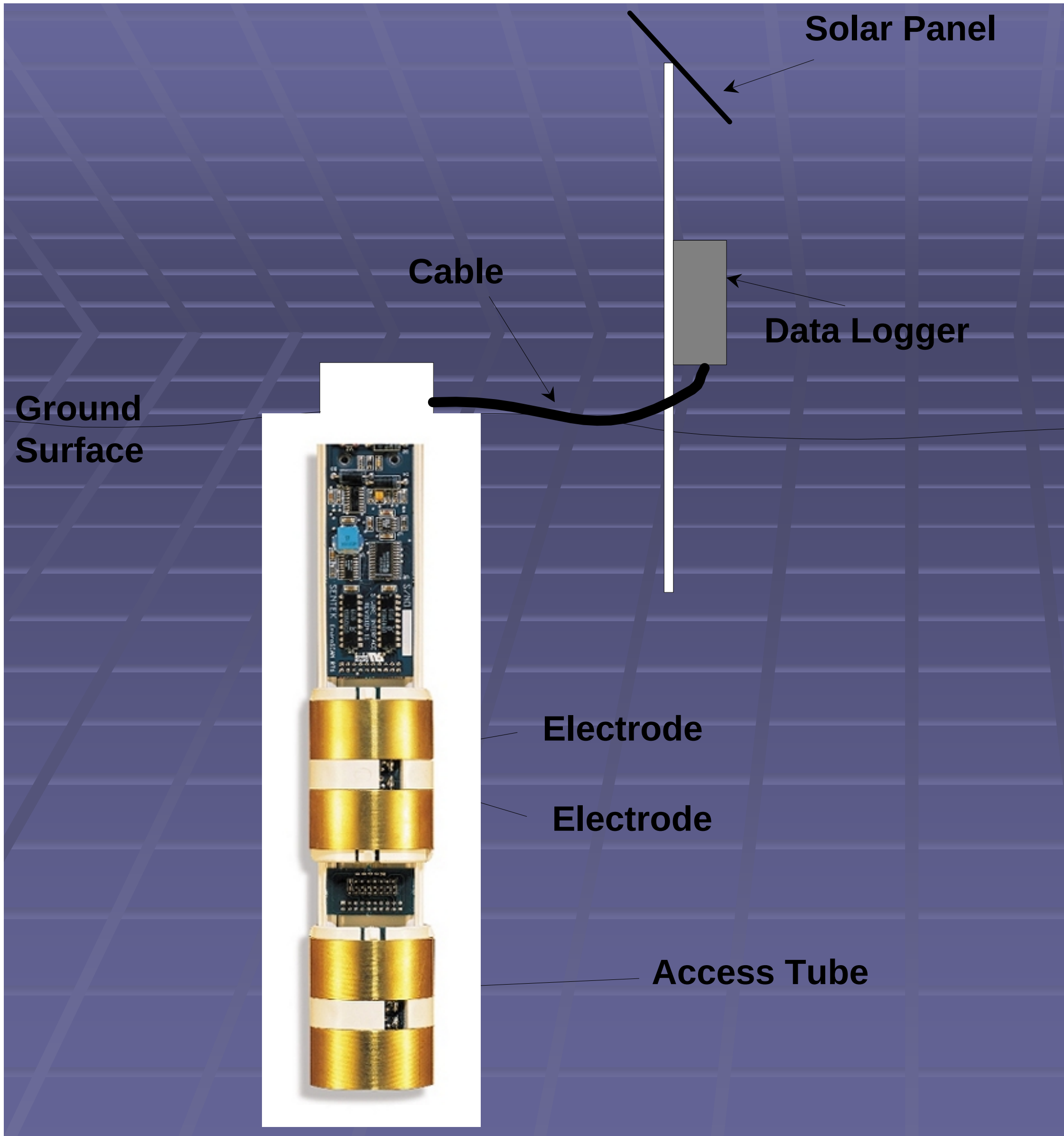
- Water Content
- Soil Temperature (small in most cases)
- Soil Porosity and Bulk Density
- Minerals (2:1 clays)
- Measurement Frequency
- Air Gaps (instalation– swelling soils)

Frequency Domain/Capacitance

- A couple different methods are used however, they all use:
  - Electronic circuit in which the two plates, rods or rings use the soil between them as dielectric of a capacitor
- The change in the circuit output is related to the dielectric permittivity

Capacitance (*C*), measured in Farads (F), is defined as:

- the amount of charge (*Q*) required to increase the voltage (*V*) by one volt between two plates separated by a known distance containing an insulating material



Solar Panel

Cable

Data Logger

Ground Surface

Electrode

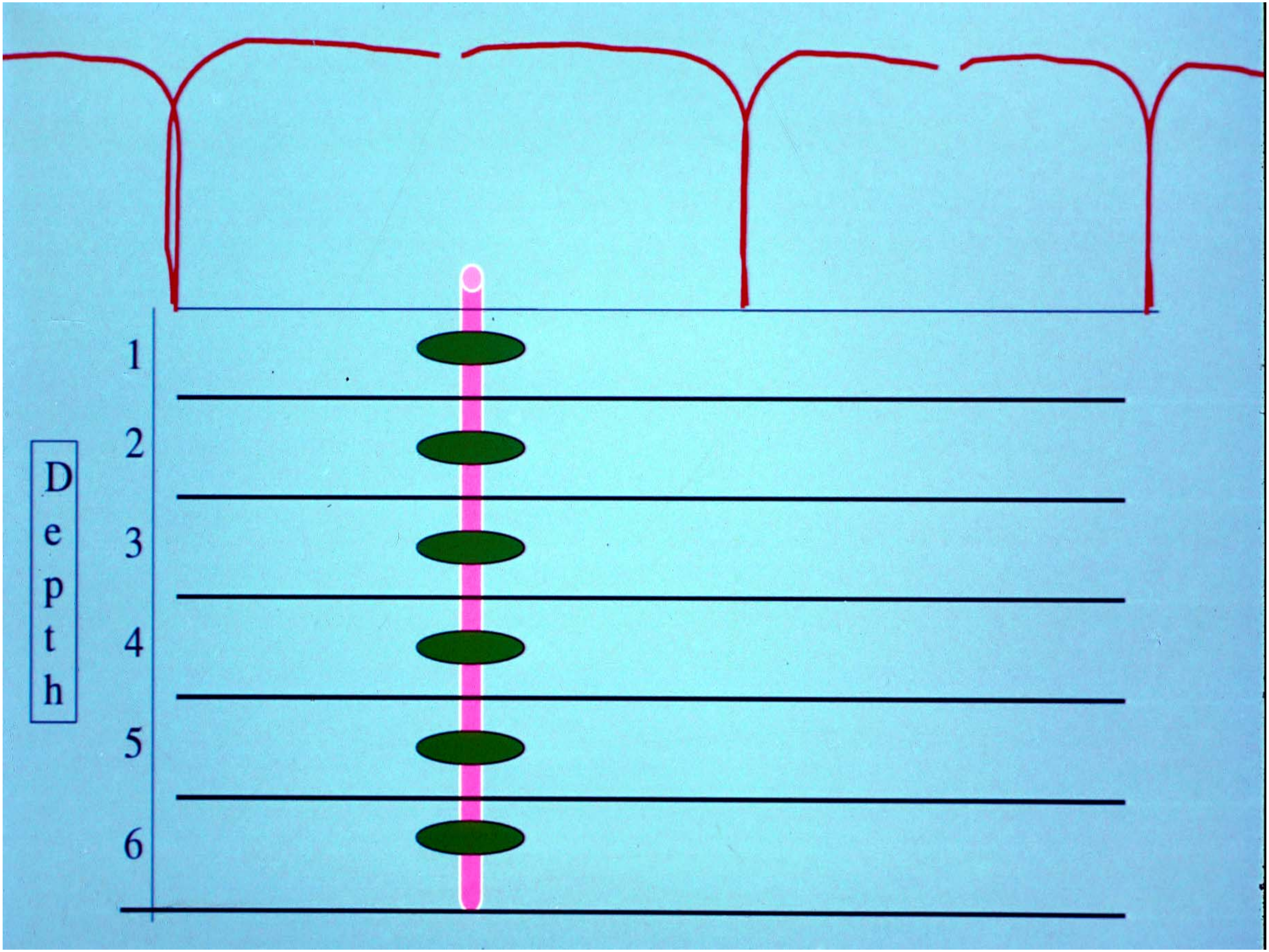
Electrode

Access Tube

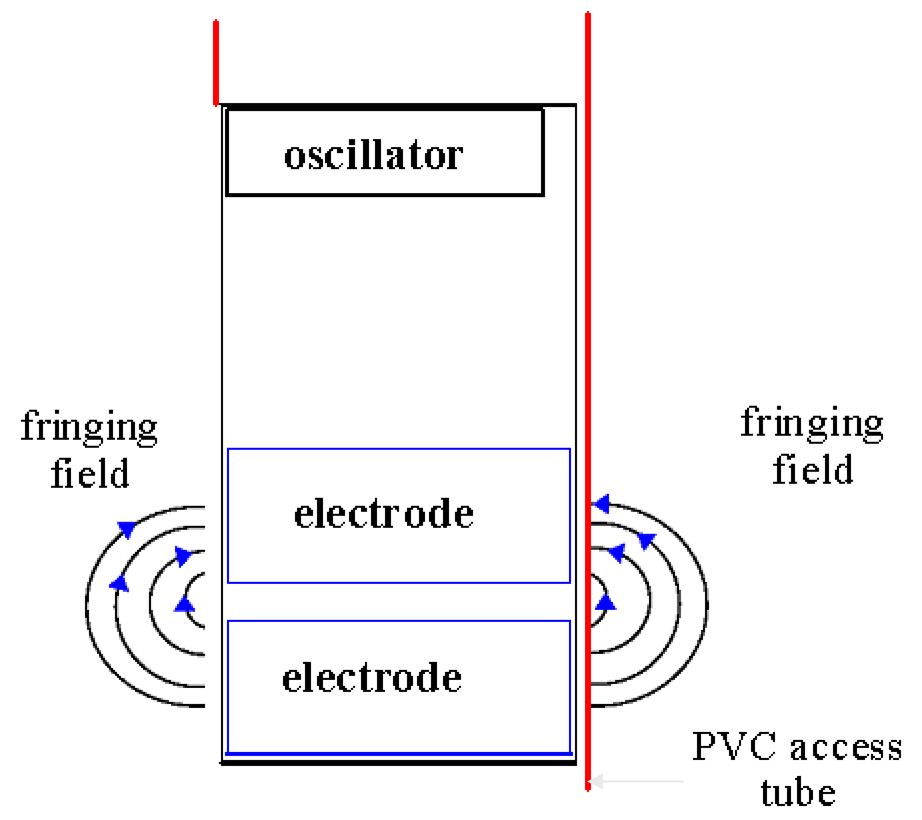
Permanent logging
Multi depth

Portable

Single point measure


1
2
3
4
5
6
Depth

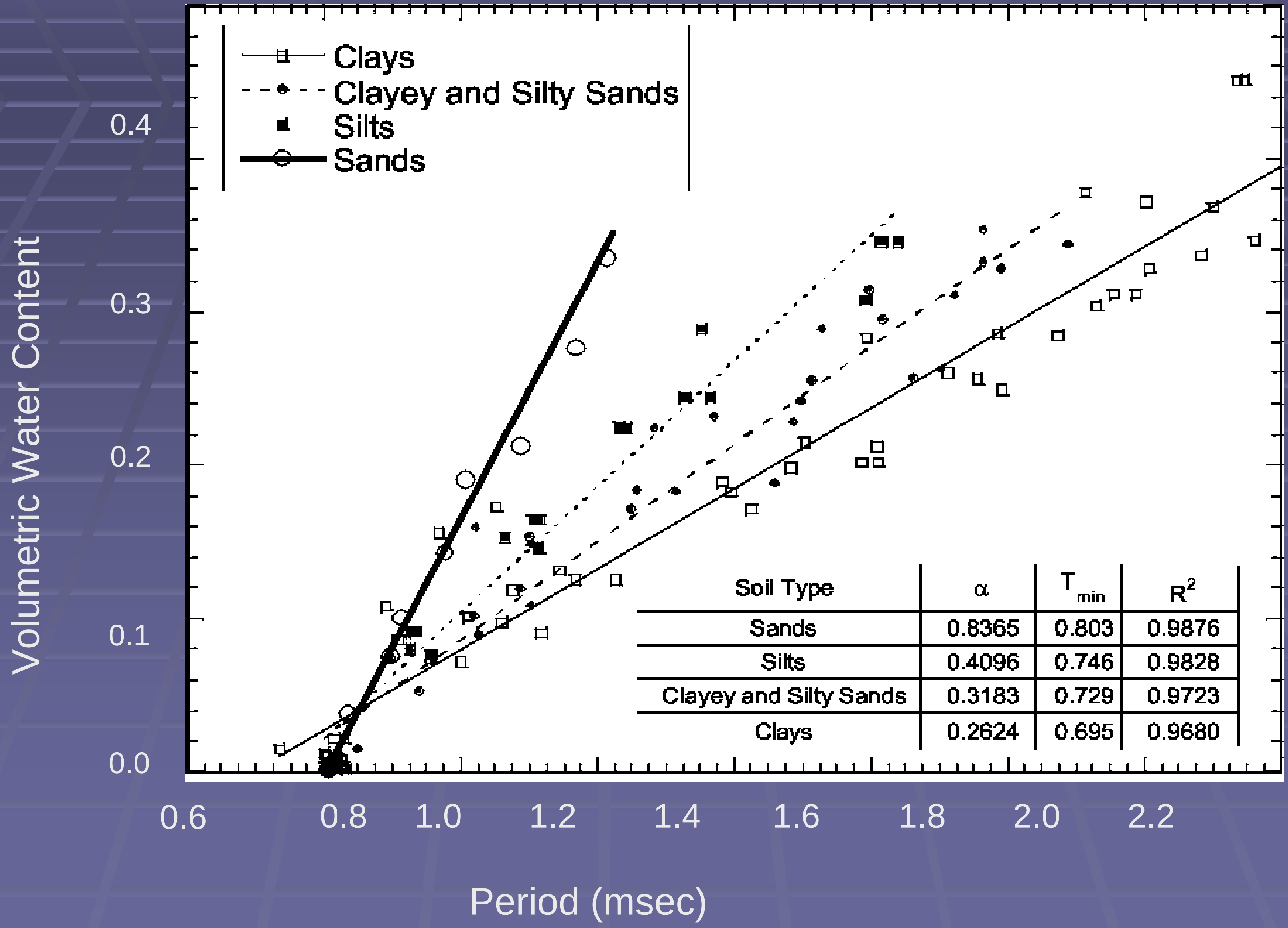
Capacitance Probe



FDR

- Soil specific calibration curves are needed for soils that are highly conductive, have high organic content, or contain 2:1 clays

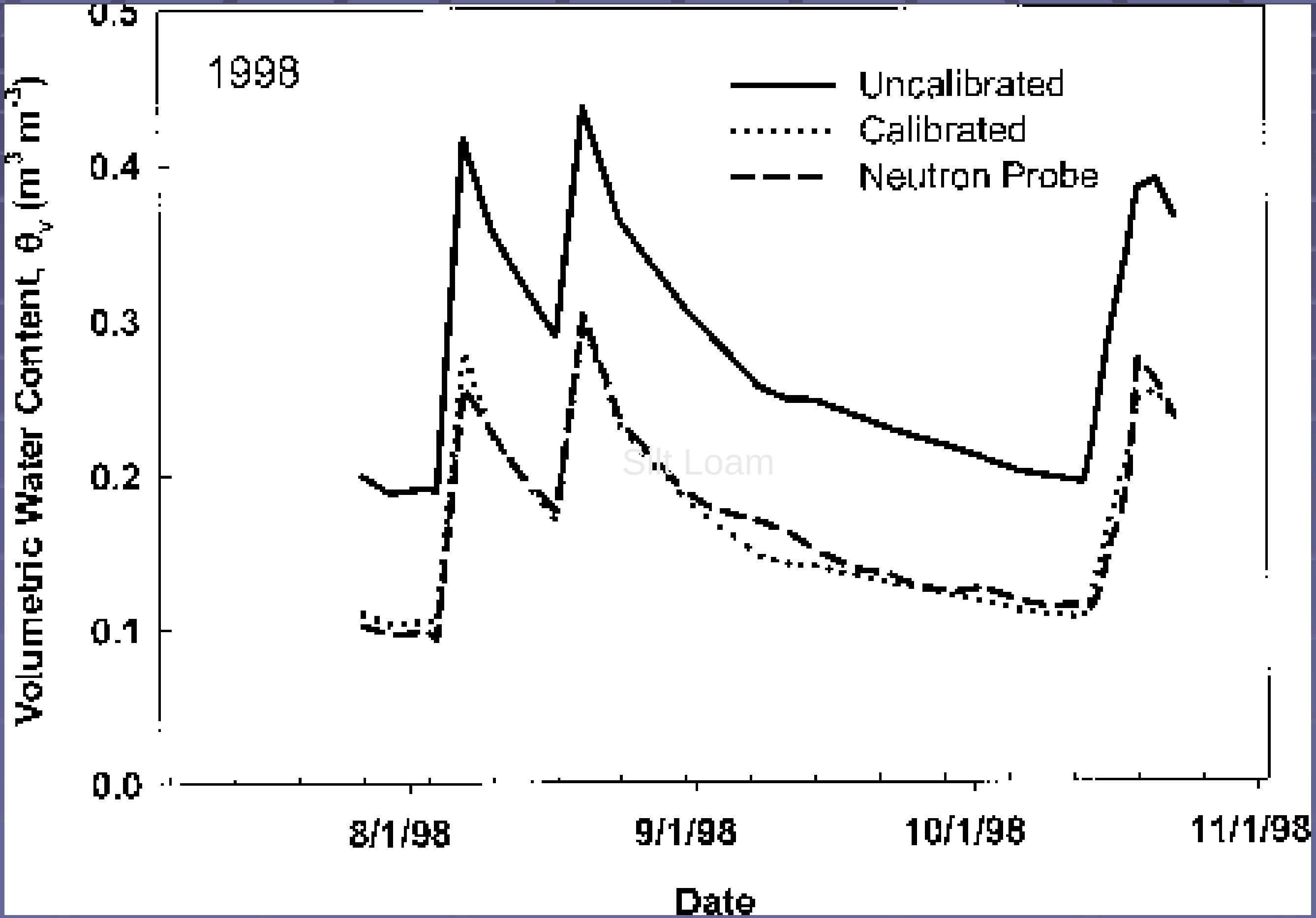
Soil Specific Calibration

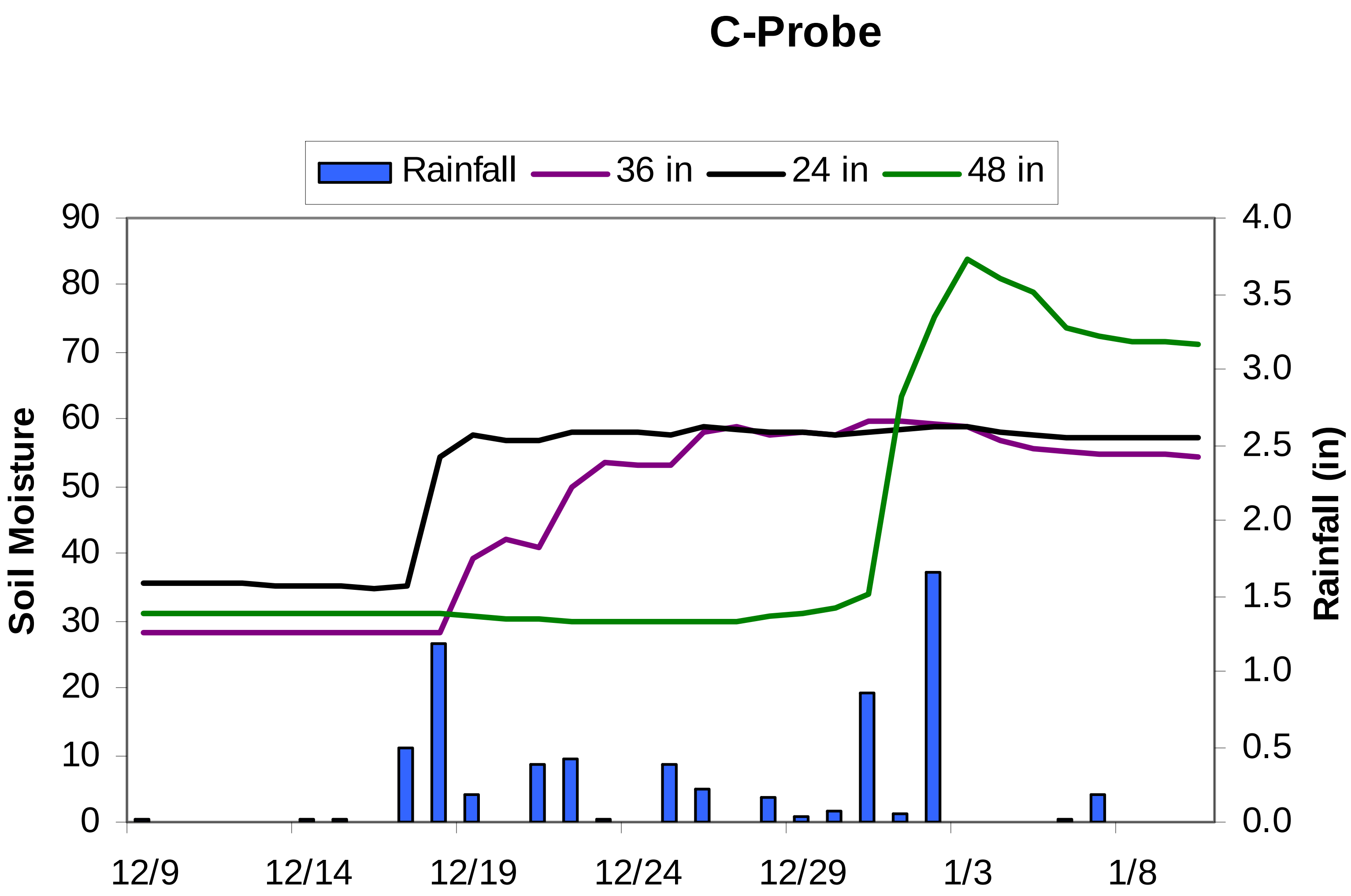


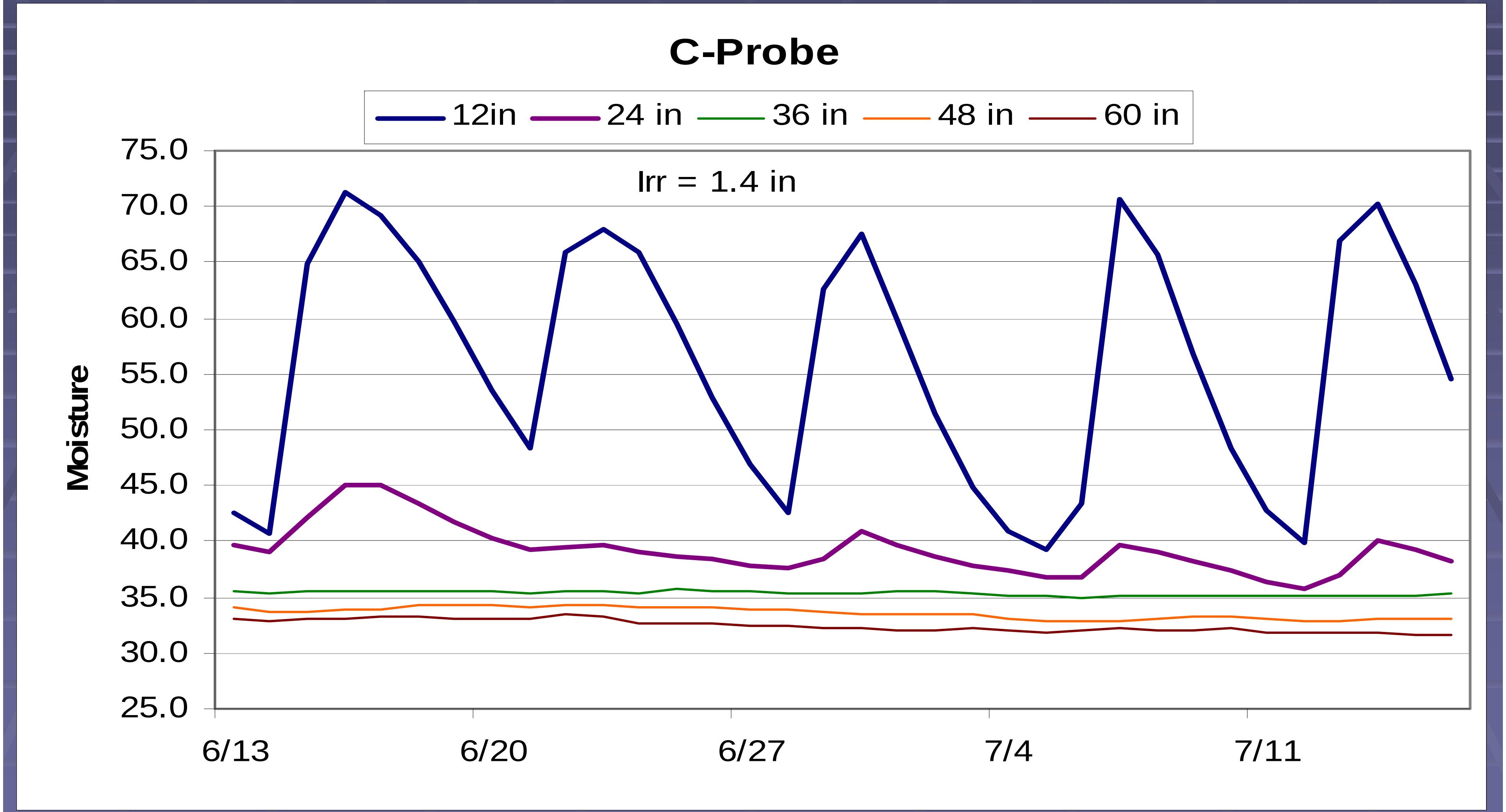
Soil Type	α	T_{min}	R^2
Sands	0.8365	0.803	0.9876
Silts	0.4096	0.746	0.9828
Clayey and Silty Sands	0.3183	0.729	0.9723
Clays	0.2624	0.695	0.9680

After Kim and Benson 2002

FDR


1998
Uncalibrated
Calibrated
Neutron Probe
Silt Loam
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
Volumetric Water Content, θv (m3 m-3)
8/1/98
9/1/98
10/1/98
11/1/98
Date


C-Probe
Rainfall
36 in
24 in
48 in
Soil Moisture
Rainfall (in)
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
12/9
12/14
12/19
12/24
12/29
1/3
1/8


C-Probe
12in
24 in
36 in
48 in
60 in
Irr = 1.4 in
Moisture
75.0
70.0
65.0
60.0
55.0
50.0
45.0
40.0
35.0
30.0
25.0
6/13
6/20
6/27
7/4
7/11

C-Probe
12in
24 in
36 in
48 in
60 in
Sum
Irr = 1.4 in
Moisture
275.0
225.0
175.0
125.0
75.0
25.0
6/13
6/20
6/27
7/4
7/11

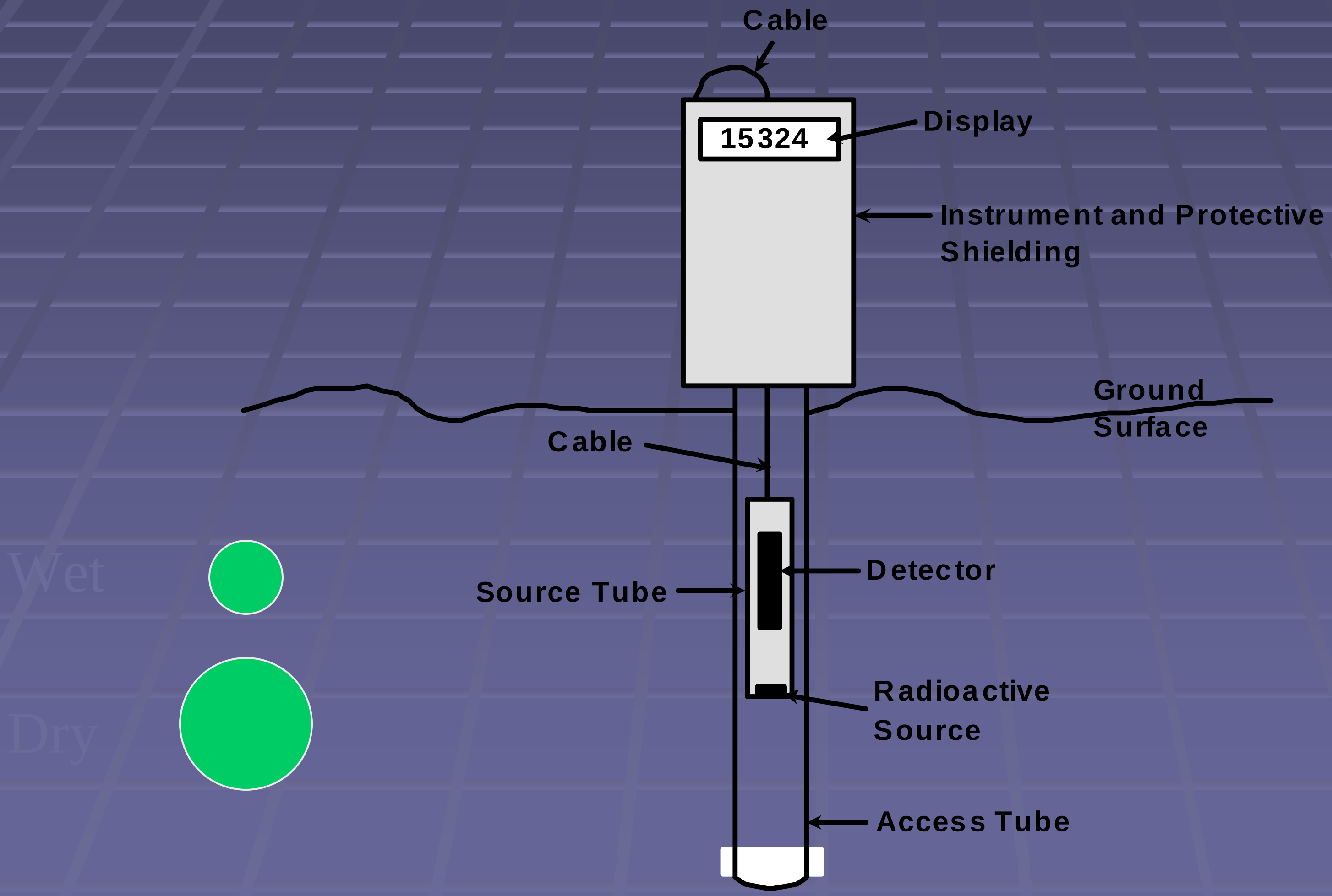
FDR Advantages

- Relatively inexpensive
  - low frequency standard circuitry
- No radiation hazard / hassles
- Fast response time
- Logging capable
- Portable

FDR Disadvantages

- Small measurement volume sensitive to small-scale soil variations (most in 5cm)
- Sensitivity to installation
- Site specific calibration is necessary for accurate soil volumetric water content

Neutron Scatter / Probe



Cable

15324

Display

Instrument and Protective Shielding

Ground Surface

Cable

Wet

Source Tube

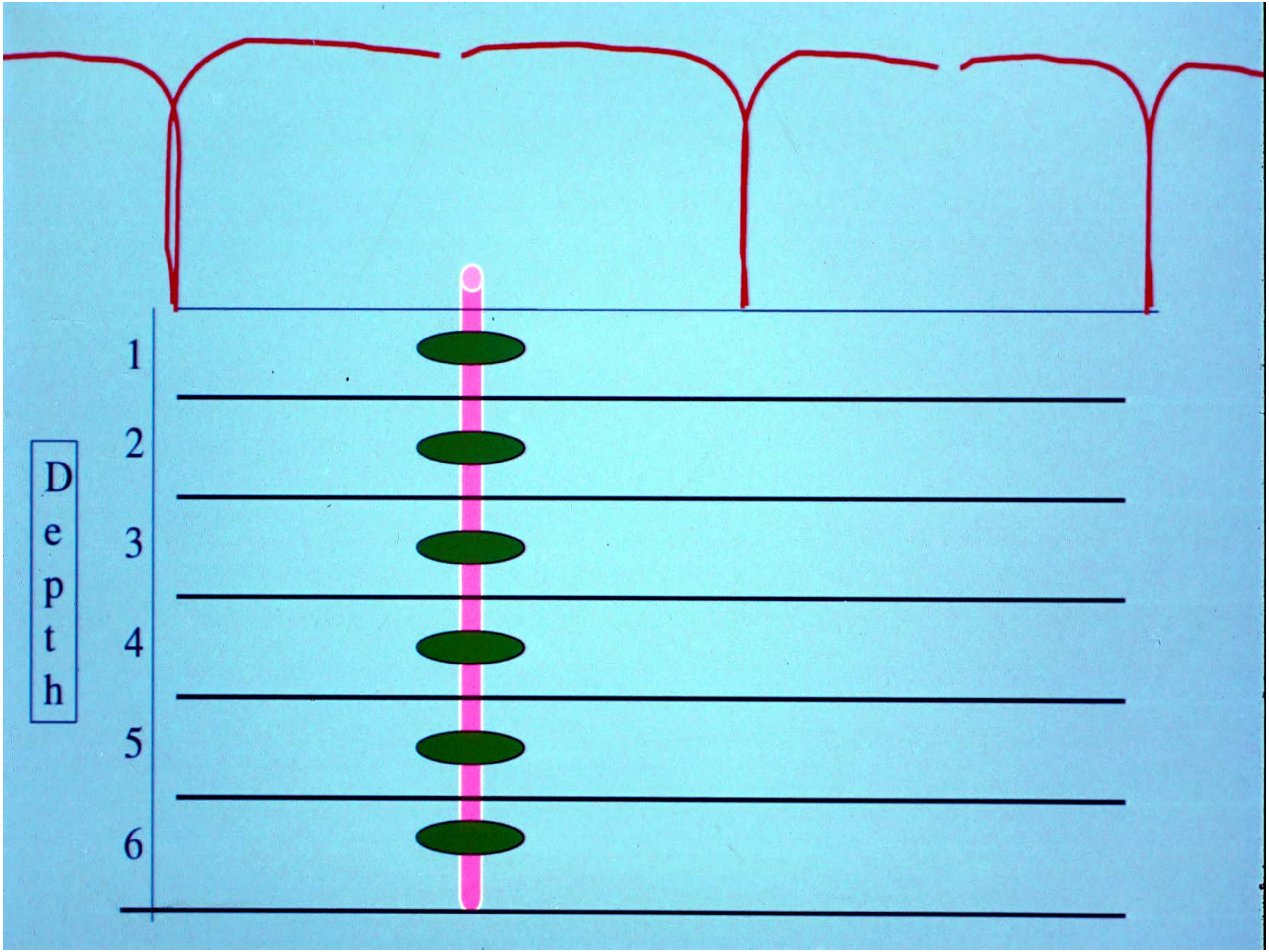
Detector

Dry

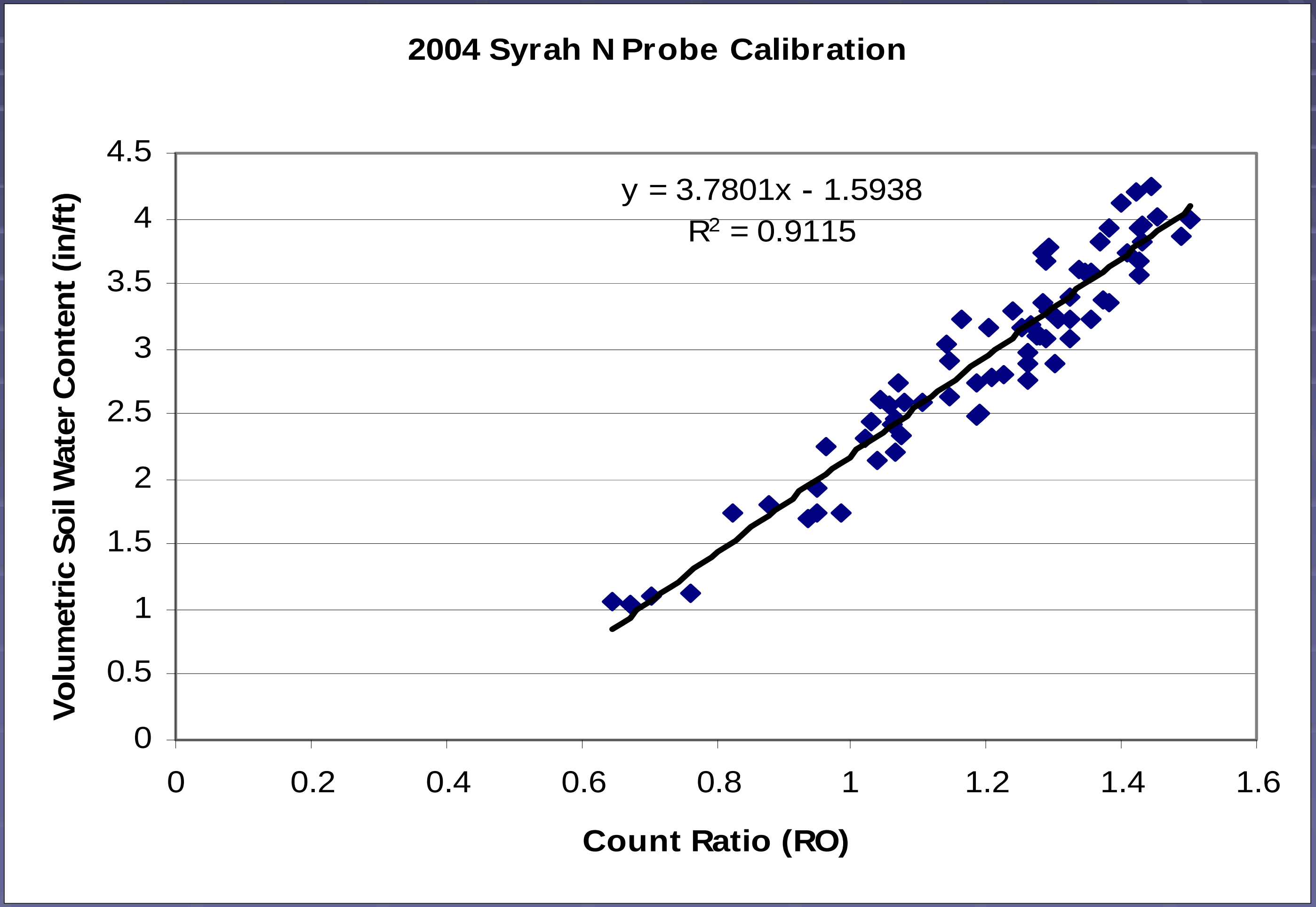
Radioactive Source

Access Tube


CPN
U.C. BERKELEY
MODEL 503
CAUTION RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL
A


1
2
3
4
5
6
Depth

NP Field Calibration



Calibration

- Down-hole samplers are pushed into the soil at the bottom of an augered hole to take fixed volumetric (60 cc) samples
- Device readings are taken at the same depths immediately after sampling
- Samples are oven dried
- Percent water content vs reading

NP Advantages

- Large measurement volume produces high precision
- Works well in stony soils and expansive clays
- Very accurate, when calibrated
- Air gaps and soil disturbance during access tube installation has minimal effects
- Multiple point measurements

NP Disadvantages

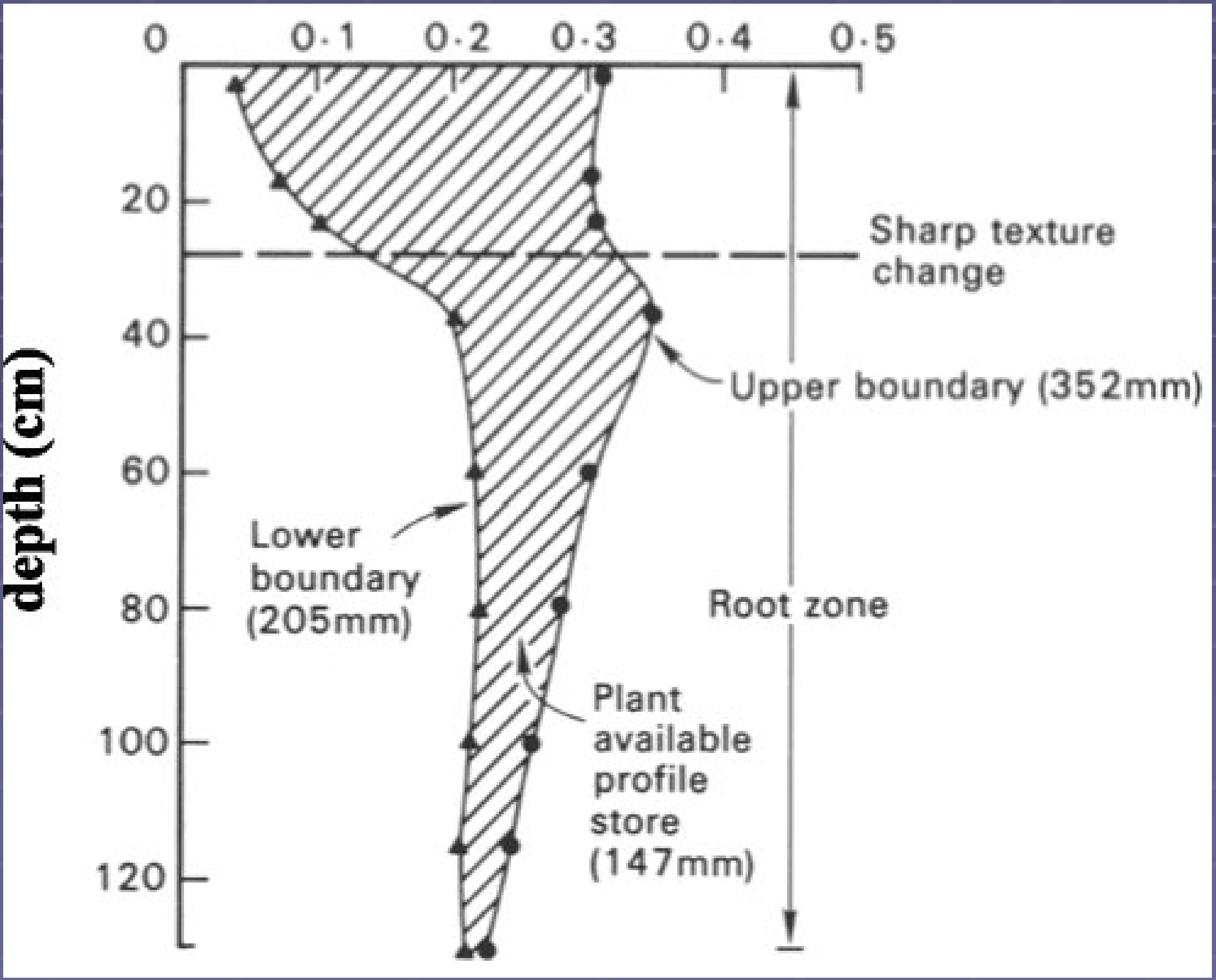
- Costly
- Cannot be automated because radioactive source may not be left unattended
- Cost of regulation and licensing of a radioactive source/ and disposal cost
- Surface measurements inaccurate < 9 in
- Heavy awkward device
- Time required for reading

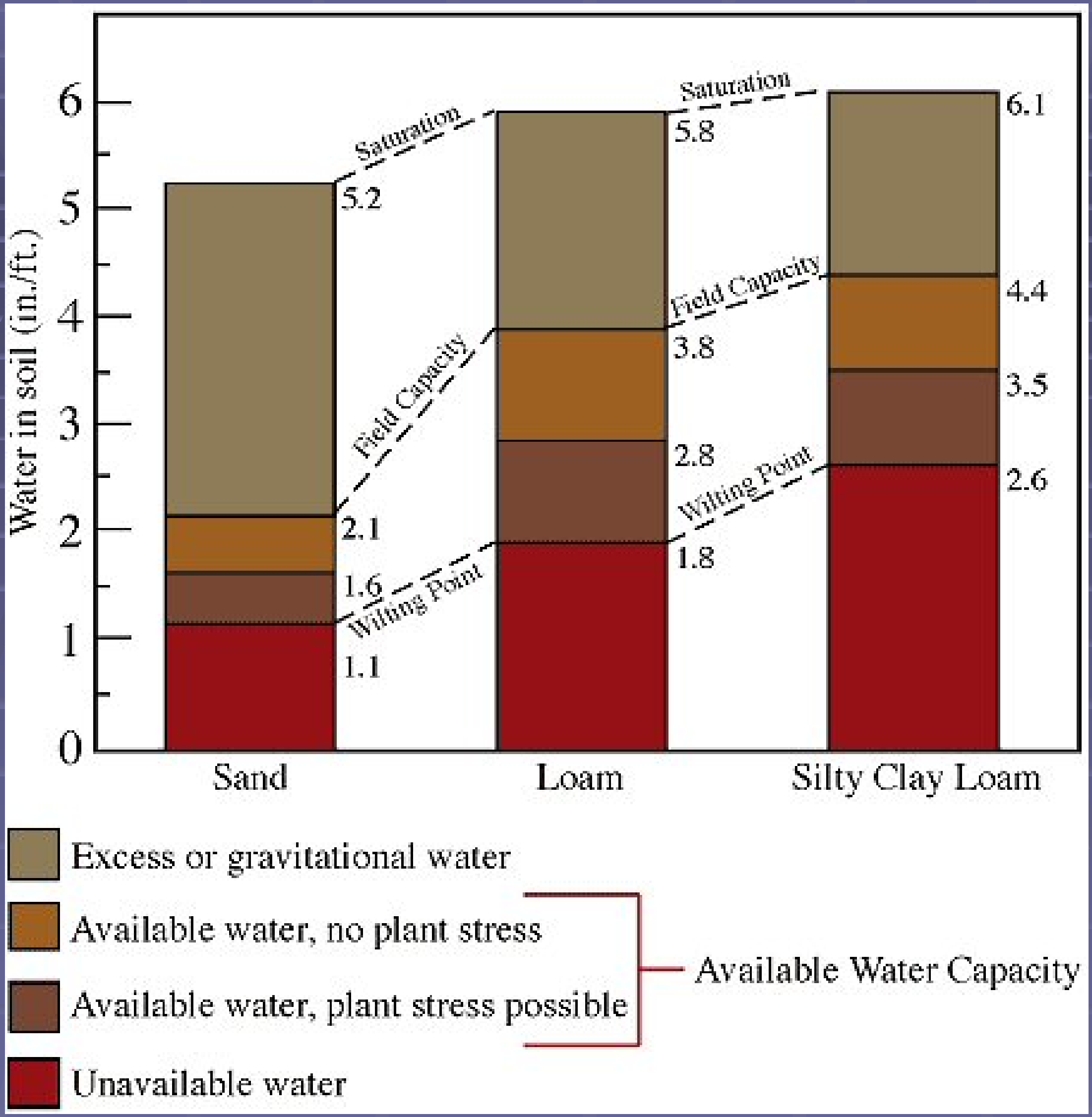
Available Soil Moisture

- Field Capacity – Perm wilt point

- Field Capacity
  - Upper limit when drainage ceases
- Permanent Wilting point
  - Lower limit when plants cannot extract moisture

water content (m3 m-3)




Water in soil (in./ft.)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
Sand
Loam
Silty Clay Loam
Saturation
Saturation
Field Capacity
Field Capacity
Wilting Point
Wilting Point
5.2
2.1
1.6
1.1
5.8
3.8
2.8
1.8
6.1
4.4
3.5
2.6
Excess or gravitational water
Available water, no plant stress
Available water, plant stress possible
Unavailable water
Available Water Capacity

Using Neutron Probe Data

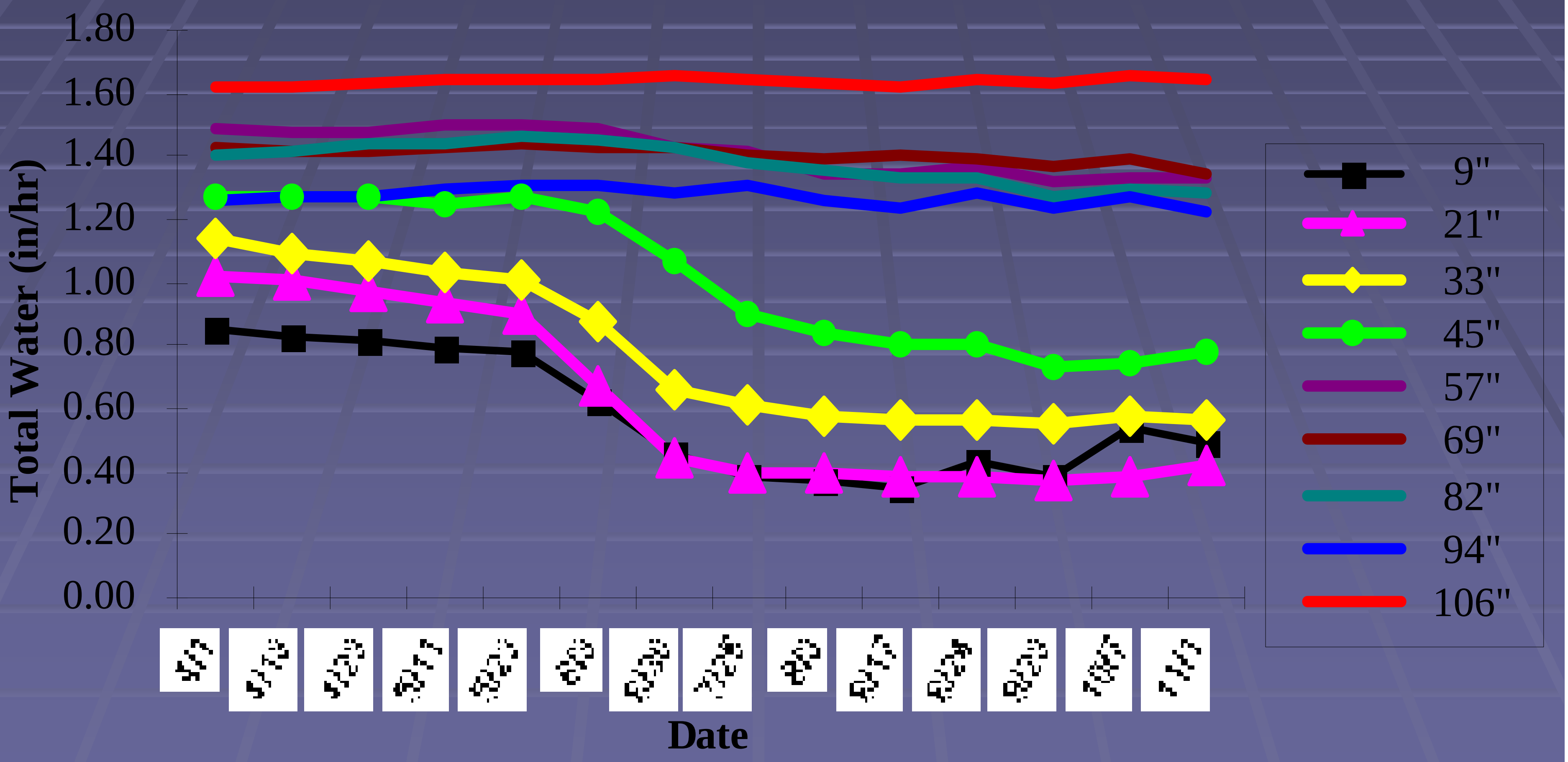


Figure B-2. Winegrape non-irrigated in/ft by depth

Soil and Water Holding / Supplying Variability

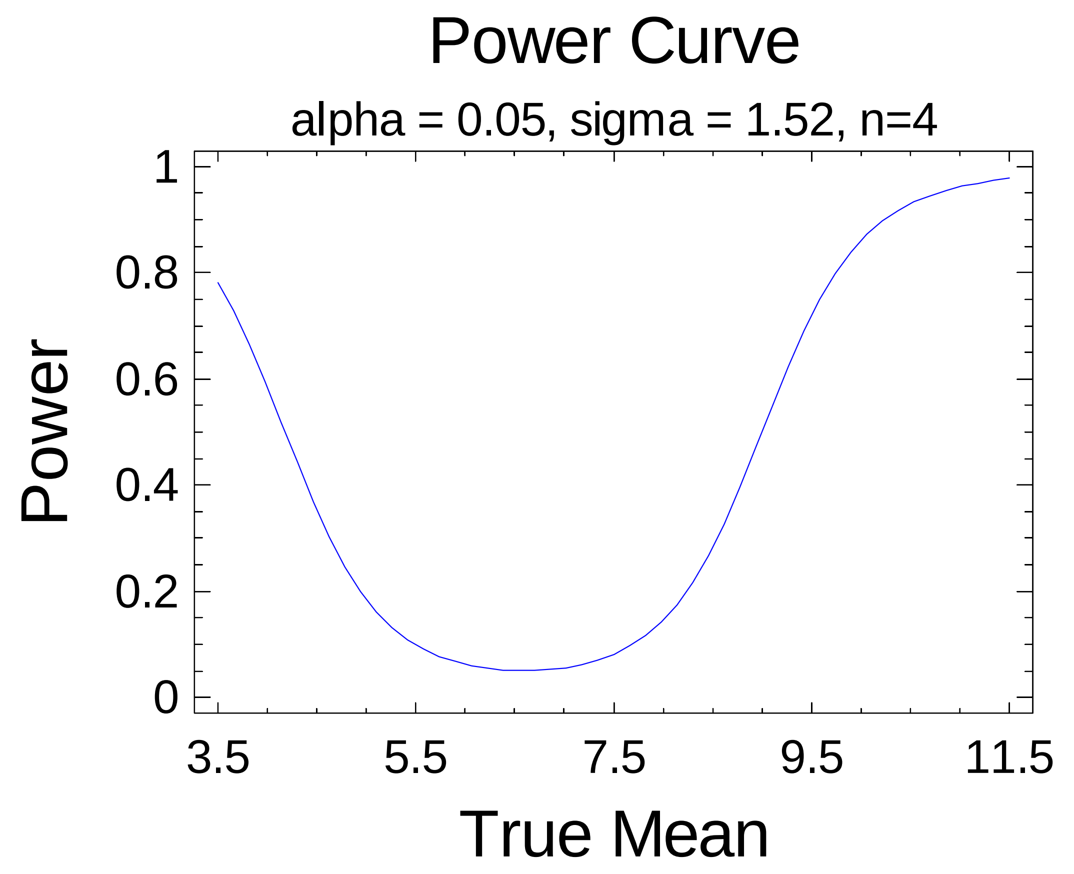
- Variability within the vines root zone and on a field scale is the largest error when trying to approximate the mean soil moisture
- <u>Soil Variability</u>
  - Texture
  - Density
  - Root limiting conditions
  - Vine water extraction

Solution to Variability

- More measurement points
  - Based on:
    - Level of confidence needed ie. 95%
    - Variability that exists
    - Mean Value expected

Number of Sites

Mean = 6.59
Sdev = 1.52



Data Handling / Telemetry

- Wide range available
  - Direct hand held “pod” collection
  - Cell phone modem to
    data processing to
    internet acc

Summary

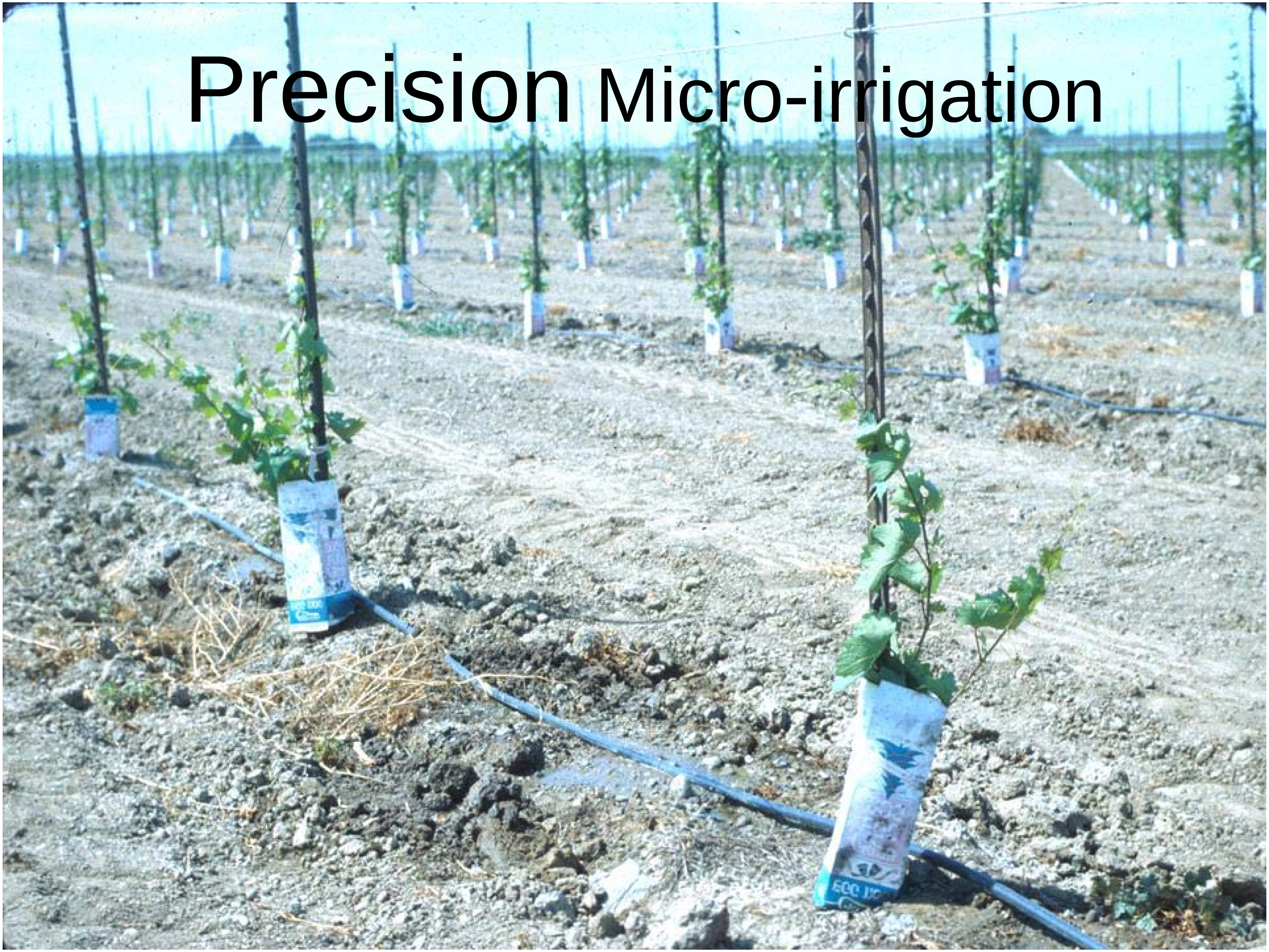
- Volumetric Water Content
    - Dielectric Methods
    - Nuclear Methods
  - All require field calibration if volumetric required
  - Dielectric
    - Can be automated / unattended / transmitted
    - Generally inexpensive
    - Need a number of sites/depths to characterize the rootzone and field

Looking Ahead

- Increased use of devices which can log transmit and allow automatic data processing. --- Dielectric methods
- The Neutron Probe is the standard and will be slow to replace by virtue of its advantages

Sensor Area of Measure

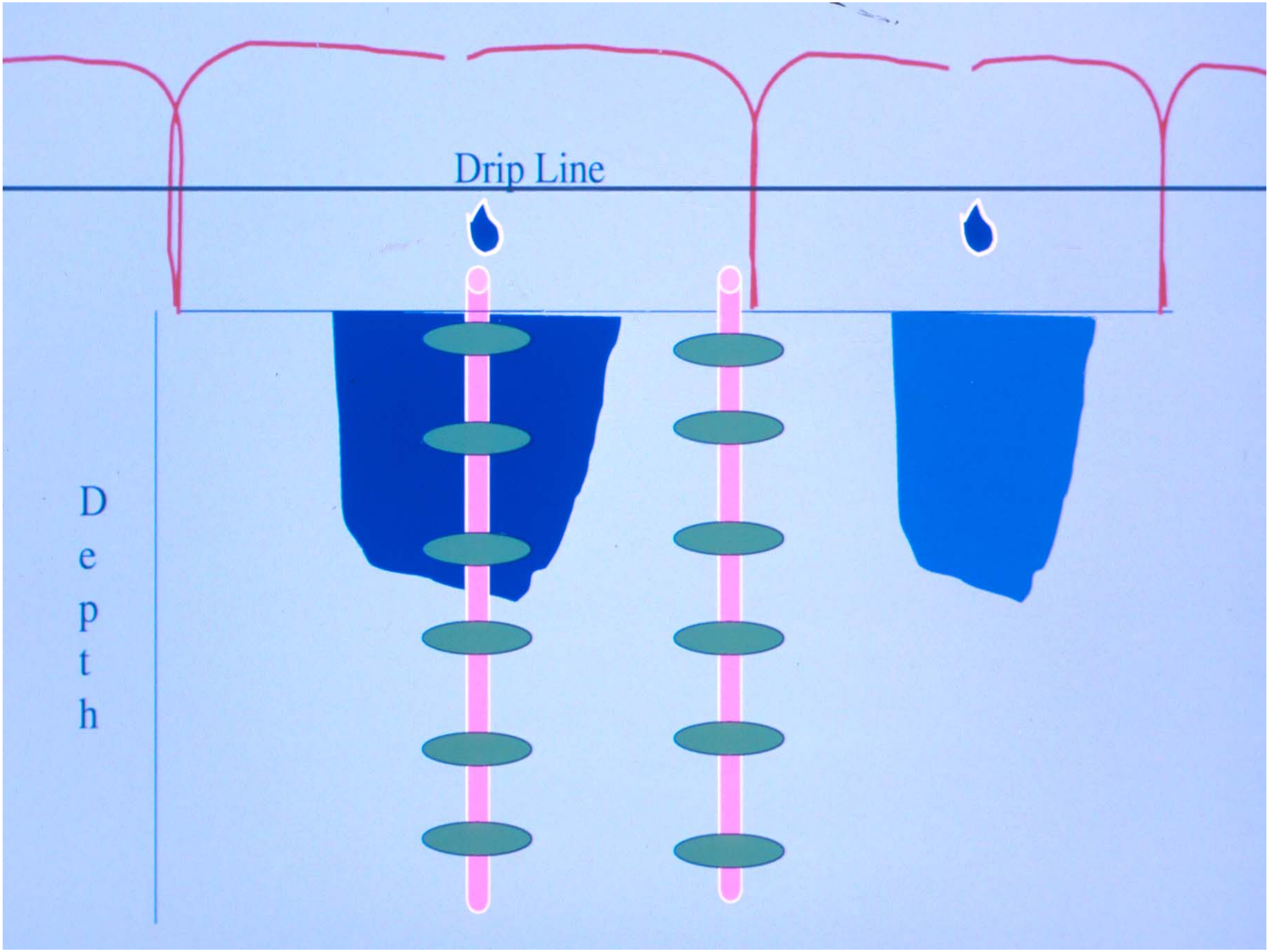
- Most sensors read a small area
  - Tensiometers and Gypsum Blocks
    - Smallest area– a few cubic centimeters
  - Dielectric methods
    - Narrow disk shaped measurement area a few cm outside the well or from thee waveguides
  - Neutron Probe
    - Largest area – a few inches in radius of the detector



Precision Micro-irrigation

Sensor Placement

- Depends on the goal of the measurement
- If measuring soil water depletion before irrigation--- not too important
- If measuring after irrigation– proximity to the emitter will effect the reading


Drip Line
Depth

When To Measure Soil Moisture Quantitative(N Probe)

- Most valuable times:
  - Bud break
  - Just prior to 1st irrigation
  - Dry point

Bud break – Dry Point = Available water

Bud break – Prior to 1st irr = Water consumed

Prior to 1st irr – Dry Point = water remaining

Measuring Effective In-Season Rainfall

Effective Rainfall = [rainfall (in) - 0.25 in] × 0.8

Table C-3. Effective rainfall

Day	Rainfall (inches)	Effective Rainfall (inches)
1	0.39	0.11
2	0.62	0.30
3	0	0
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	0.25	0
Weekly Total	1.26	0.41

Measuring Water

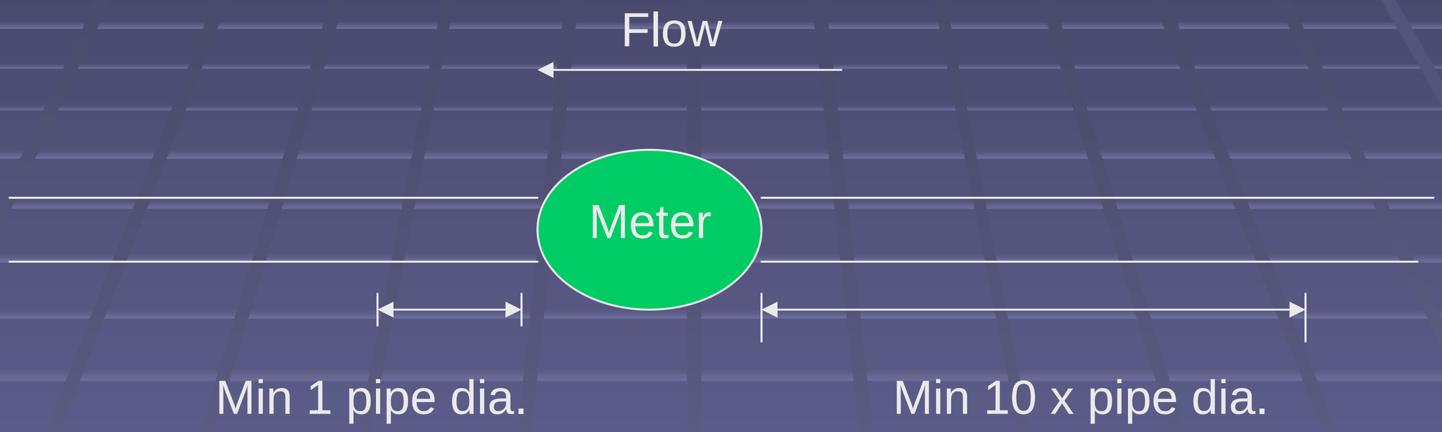
Volume Units	Flow Rate
Gallons	gpm
Cubic feet	cfs
Depth	
Inches	in/hr
Rainfall	
Crop Water Use	
Irrigation	

Measuring Irrigation Water

- Flowmeters
- Emitter Discharge

Totalizing Water Meter

Proper Water Meter Installation



Flow

Meter

Min 1 pipe dia.

Min 10 x pipe dia.

8 in pipe = 80 in

Doppler Water Meter

Portable totalizing and instantaneous readings 2” to 9 ft dia.

pipe cross-sectional area X water velocity = Flow rate

Discharge Method

Measure the flow rate at the discharge point

Orchard / Vineyard Pots

Emitters

½ or 1 gph at nominal pressure

Measuring Micro Irrigation Discharge Rate

Micro system discharge rate

Volume of water collected (ml) in 30 sec X 0.0317 = Discharge rate (gph)

Average discharge rate to applied inches

Ave. Discharge Rate

(gph) x no. discharge devices per plant /
plant spacing (sq ft) x 1.6 =ave. application rate (in/hr)

0.5 gph x 2 emitter/plant / 7x10 ft x 1.6 = 0.0229 in /hr

Applied Water

in/hr x hrs of operation = applied inches

0.0229 in/hr x 24 hrs = 0.52 in

Applied inches to Gallons per vine

- 0.52 inches X 27158 / vines/acre
- For a spacing of 7 x11 ft = 566 vines/acre

- 0.52 x 27158 / 566 = 25 gal/vine