



## Best Management Practices for New York State Golf Courses

### Monitoring Soil Moisture

The NRCS provides a guideline for estimating the soil moisture content of soil by touch (<http://nmp.tamu.edu/content/tools/estimatingsoilmoisture.pdf>). The turf industry, however, offers tools to more precisely measure soil moisture content. Several handheld and portable instruments can be used to spot check areas.

Programs are also available to map moisture content using global positioning system (GPS) positioning. Maps can be compared between different times of day, different seasons, and different management routines to compare soil moisture conditions. Irrigation system suppliers now offer in ground moisture meters to provide continuous data input to their controllers to adjust irrigation rates based on soil moisture.



Root zone moisture, temperature, and salinity meter (left) and portable moisture meter (right). *Source:* John J. Genovesi, Maidstone Club