

MEA2262 GBug and MEA2263 GTBug Soil Moisture Logger

The MEA Bug soil moisture loggers are a low cost, continuously recording, soil moisture monitoring system. The Bug system is simple to use and incorporates all the functionality needed for soil moisture monitoring.

The GBug is one of four soil moisture loggers in MEA's Bug range. It is designed to work with the GBHeavy and Watermark soil moisture tension sensors.

The GBug is used with the MEA Retriever to capture soil moisture data from up to four sensors, (which can be any combination of GBHeavy and Watermark sensors), without



the need for expensive cable or telemetry systems. Readings can be collected in the field in a matter of seconds. The data can be

analysed on the spot and taken back to the office for interpretation on a computer.

The GBHeavy and Watermark gypsum blocks are soil moisture tension sensors. They are easily installed using an auger.

Readings of soil moisture are taken every two hours and stored on a memory inside the Bug. Memory capacity is 20 days of data.

Data from GBugs and GTBugs is collected using the MEA Retriever. The readings are transferred to the Retriever by wireless connection.

To download data, hold the Retriever within a metre of the Bug, tap it to wake it up and the data is automatically transferred.

The Retriever display will show the current readings, confirming that the transfer has been successful. In the field assessments can be made without the use of a laptop computer. Scroll back through the data on the Retriever display to see changes in soil moisture tension over time.

The Retriever can download between 25 and 100 sites depending on the mix of GBugs, GTBugs, ABugs and TBugs in use.

The data stored in the memory of the Retriever is then downloaded to a Windows compatible PC using the software program provided. Soil moisture data can be viewed in graph or tabular form. Full and refill points can be set for the soil moisture values and data can be exported easily to other programs.

Both GBHeavy and Watermark sensors are connected to the Bug by low cost Scotchloks which are supplied with every Bug. Power for both the GBug and GTBug comes from a 9V alkaline battery.