

Request for a Solution to Measure Moisture Content of Aggregate Soil

This Request for Proposal outlines the requirements for a solution aimed at improving the accuracy of measuring moisture levels in bonsai aggregate soils. This type of soil is used in the growth of bonsai trees, but is also often found in the potting substrate of succulents, cacti, and other plants that are sensitive to root rot. Current market solutions do not allow for accurate substrate moisture measurement. Maintaining consistent moisture levels is critical for bonsai health, but methods such as the chopstick test, capacitive and resistive probes, and tensiometers do not meet the needs of bonsai growers looking for a quick and reliable way to measure soil moisture. Due to the coarse structure of bonsai aggregate soil, which has large air pockets that do not allow traditional methods to make sufficient contact, these current techniques often yield inaccurate readings. The purpose of this RFP is to propose an opportunity for a reliable and user-friendly alternative that minimizes soil disturbance, provides quick and accurate results, and remains effective across different soil compositions. The ideal solution should be accessible to all bonsai enthusiasts, regardless of age, experience level, or physical ability, ensuring both functional reliability and ergonomic ease of use. By addressing these challenges, the solution seeks to enhance best practices in bonsai care, leading to healthier trees and a more precise watering regimen.