Task
Collect soil moisture samples at depths of 0-5 cm and 10 cm.

What You Need
- Soil Moisture Data Sheet – Star Pattern
- Compass (to locate sampling point)
- Trowel
- 6 soil sample containers (sealable bags or cans) weighed and labeled with their mass and container number
- Meter stick
- Ruler marked in millimeters
- Science Log
- Pen or pencil

In the Field
1. Complete the top portion of the Soil Moisture Data Sheet – Star Pattern.
2. Locate your sampling point on the star and cut or pull away any grass or groundcover.
3. Dig a hole 10-15 cm in diameter down to 5 cm. Leave the soil loose in the hole.
4. Remove from the loose soil any rocks larger than a pea (about 5 mm), large roots, worms, grubs, and other animals.
5. Use a trowel to fill a soil container with at least 100 g of the loose soil.
6. Immediately seal the container to hold in the moisture.
7. Record the container mass and number on the Data Sheet next to Sample 1, 0-5 cm.
8. Remove all of the soil from the hole down to a depth of 8 cm.
9. In a clean container, collect a soil sample that contains the soil between 8 and 12 cm. Remember to remove rocks, large roots, and animals. Seal the container.
10. Record the container mass and number on the Data Sheet next to Sample 1, 10 cm.
11. Return remaining soil to the hole.
12. Repeat steps 3 – 11 twice in new holes within 25 cm of the original sample point filling the other four cans and recording the container numbers and masses for samples 2 and 3 at both depths. You should have six containers of soil taken from three holes.
13. Dry samples according to the Gravimetric Soil Moisture Protocol Lab Guide.