Soil Solution Sampling

Soil Solution Sampling is a technique whereby the liquid which resides in the soil pores is extracted under suction. Traditionally the solution was collected through a porous ceramic cup into a collection cane. These cups are easily broken but cheap and the sample can react with the ceramic and alter the chemical characteristics of the sample. Nonetheless they still have a role to play in extraction of those parameters such as Nitrates which are unaffected by the cup's construction material. More recently other porous materials such a Teflon/quartz, nylon, glass and polymers have been used.

An internet search will reveal a large amount of information on soil solution sampling techniques and there are proponents of each and every porous material. In our extensive experience of over 40 years we have seen fashions and opinions change and each year there is one material which is 'flavour of the month' and the following year some researcher will point to its unsuitability.

However, Van Walt recommends Rhizon samplers which use an inert porous polymer.