

Soil Texture

By the "Feel Method"

START

Place approximately one tablespoon of soil in palm. Add water a drop at a time and knead the soil to break down all aggregates. Soil is at the proper consistency when plastic and mobile, like moist putty.

Add dry soil to soak up water.

YES

Does soil remain in a ball when squeezed?

NO

Is soil too dry?

NO

Is soil too wet?

NO

SAND
1/ 0-10%

YES

Place ball of soil between thumb and forefinger gently pushing the soil with the thumb, working it upward into a ribbon. Form a ribbon of uniform thickness and width. Allow the ribbon to emerge and extend over the forefinger, breaking from its own weight.

Does soil form a ribbon?

NO

LOAMY SAND
0-15%

YES

Does soil make a weak ribbon less than 1" long before breaking?

NO

Does soil make a medium ribbon 1" to 2" long before breaking?

NO

Does soil make a strong ribbon 2" or longer before breaking?

YES

YES

Excessively wet a small pinch of soil in palm of hand and rub with forefinger.

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SANDY
LOAM
0-20%

YES

Does soil feel very gritty?

NO

SILT or
SILT
LOAM
0-27%

YES

Does soil feel very smooth?

NO

LOAM
7-27%

YES

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

SANDY
CLAY
LOAM
20-35%

YES

Does soil feel very gritty?

NO

SILTY
CLAY
LOAM
27-40%

YES

Does soil feel very smooth?

NO

CLAY
LOAM
27-40%

YES

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

SANDY
CLAY
35-55%

YES

Does soil feel very gritty?

NO

SILTY
CLAY
40-60%

YES

Does soil feel very smooth?

NO

CLAY
40-100%

YES

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

1/ Clay percentage range.