

SOIL TEXTURAL CLASS

THE FEEL (FIELD) METHOD

Put a small amount of soil (few tablespoons) in the palm of your hand. Add water slowly until the soil is the consistency of moist putty or playdough.

Squeeze the ball. Does it stay together?

YES



Hold the ball between your thumb and forefinger. Gently squeeze the soil with your thumb pushing the soil upward to make a ribbon of soil. Try to keep the soil of uniform thickness and width as you squeeze it over the edge of your fingers. Let it break of its own weight.

LOAMY SAND

NO

Can you form a ribbon of soil?

YES



What is the strength and length of the ribbon formed?

Weak ribbon. Less than 2.5 cm long (1 in).

LOAM

Medium ribbon. Between 2.5-5 cm (1-2 in) long.

CLAY LOAM

Strong ribbon. Longer than 5 cm (2 in)

CLAY

Put a pinch of soil in your palm and add water to make a slurry. How does the soil feel?

↑
% SAND

SANDY LOAM

Very gritty?

YES

NO

Equally gritty and smooth?

YES

NO

Very smooth?

YES

SANDY CLAY LOAM

Very gritty?

YES

NO

Equally gritty and smooth?

YES

NO

Very smooth?

YES

SANDY CLAY

Very gritty?

YES

NO

Equally gritty and smooth?

YES

NO

Very smooth?

YES

LOAM

CLAY LOAM

CLAY

SILT LOAM

SILT CLAY LOAM

SILT CLAY

LOW

% CLAY

HIGH

