



Texture-by-Feel Flow Chart For Identifying Soils

Start

Place a small amount of soil in palm. Add water slowly and knead soil to mix well. Soil should be moldable, like moist putty.



Does soil remain in a ball when squeezed?

NO

Sand

YES

Place a ball of soil between thumb and forefinger and squeeze it upward to form a ribbon. Let this ribbon of soil extend up above your fingers until it falls over and/or breaks under its own weight.



How long did the ribbon get before breaking?

No Ribbon

Loamy Sand

2.5 cm or less

2.5 - 5 cm

5 cm or longer

Get a small pinch of soil really wet and rub with forefinger. How does it feel?

Mostly gritty?

YES

Sandy Loam

NO

Mostly smooth?

YES

Silt Loam

NO

Equally smooth and gritty?

YES

Loam

Mostly gritty?

YES

Sandy Clay Loam

NO

Mostly smooth?

YES

Silty Clay Loam

NO

Equally smooth and gritty?

YES

Clay Loam

Mostly gritty?

YES

Sandy Clay

NO

Mostly smooth?

YES

Silty Clay

NO

Equally smooth and gritty?

YES

Clay