Soil Texture By Feel Flow Chart

Place approximately two teaspoons of soil in your palm. Add a few drops of water and kneed soil to break down all the aggregates. Soil is at proper consistency when it feels plastic and moldable, like moist putty.

Add dry soil to soak up water

Start

Does the soil remain in a ball when squeezed? Yes No

Is the soil too dry? Yes No

Is the soil too wet? Yes No

Sand

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

Loamy Sand

Does soil make a weak ribbon < 1" long before it breaks? Yes No

Does soil make a medium ribbon 1-2" long before it breaks? Yes No

Does soil make a strong ribbon > 2" long before it breaks? Yes No

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

Does soil feel very gritty? Yes No

Sandy Loam

Sandy Clay Loam

Sandy Clay

Neither gritty nor smooth? Yes No

Neither gritty nor smooth? Yes No

Neither gritty nor smooth? Yes No

Does soil feel very smooth? Yes No

Does soil feel very smooth? Yes No

Does soil feel very smooth? Yes No

Loam

Clay

Clay

Silt Loam

Silty Clay Loam

Silty Clay

Silty Clay

Neither gritty nor smooth? Yes No

Neither gritty nor smooth? Yes No

Neither gritty nor smooth? Yes No

LO

% CLAY

HI

% SAND

HI

% CLAY

HI

% SAND

LO