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

Yes

Add dry soil to soak up water

Does the soil remain in a ball when squeezed?

No

Is the soil too dry?

No

Is the soil too wet?

No

Sand

Loamy 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?

Yes

No

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

Does soil make a weak ribbon < 1" long before it breaks?

No

Does soil make a medium ribbon 1-2" long before it breaks?

No

Does soil make a strong ribbon > 2" long before it breaks?

Yes

No

% CLAY  

SAND  

LO  

HI  

% CLAY  

SAND  

LO  

HI  

Does soil feel very gritty?

Yes

Sandy Loam

Does soil feel very gritty?

Yes

Sandy Clay Loam

Does soil feel very gritty?

Yes

Sandy Clay

No

Neither gritty nor smooth?

Yes

Lam

No

Neither gritty nor smooth?

Yes

Clay Loam

No

Neither gritty nor smooth?

Yes

Clay

No

Does soil feel very smooth?

Yes

Silt Loam

No

Does soil feel very smooth?

Yes

Silty Clay Loam

No

Does soil feel very smooth?

Yes

Silty Clay