

# Soil Texture

## Step 1 (Get and moisten sample)

Use the triangle to determine the soil texture of your horizon.

Place some soil from a horizon (about the size of a small egg) in your hand, and, using the spray mist bottle, moisten the soil. Let the water soak in and then work the soil between your fingers until it is the same moisture throughout. Once the soil is moist, try to form a ball. If the soil forms a ball, go on to Step 2. If the soil does not form a ball, go to Step 5.

## Step 3 (Refine initial soil texture classification from Step 2 for relative amounts of sand and silt)

Wet a small pinch of the soil in your palm and rub it with a forefinger.

If the soil:

- Feels very gritty, go to **E**
- Feels very smooth, with no gritty feeling, go to **F**
- Feels only a little gritty, go to **G**

## Step 2 (Test for Clay)

A. If the soil:

- Is really sticky
- Hard to squeeze
- Stains your hands
- Has a shine when rubbed
- Forms a long ribbon (5+ cm) without breaking,

Call it a **clay** and go to Step 3.

Otherwise, go to B.

B. If the soil:

- Is somewhat sticky
- Is somewhat hard to squeeze
- Forms a medium ribbon (between 2-5 cm)

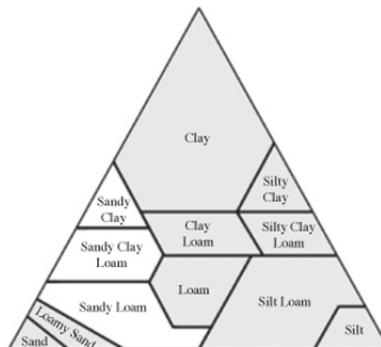
Call it a **clay loam** and go to Step 3.

Otherwise, go to C.

E. Add the word **sandy** to the initial classification.

Soil texture is (check one):  sandy clay,  
 sandy clay loam,  sandy loam

Soil Texture is complete.



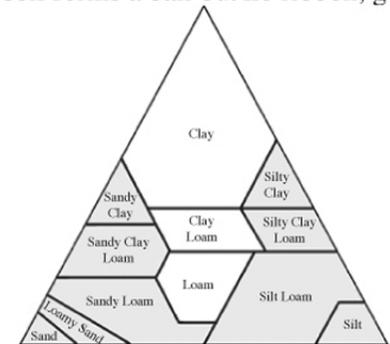
C. If the soil is:

- Soft
- Smooth
- Easy to squeeze,
- At most slightly sticky,
- Forms a short ribbon (less than 2 cm)

Call it a **loam** and go to Step 3.

Otherwise, go to D.

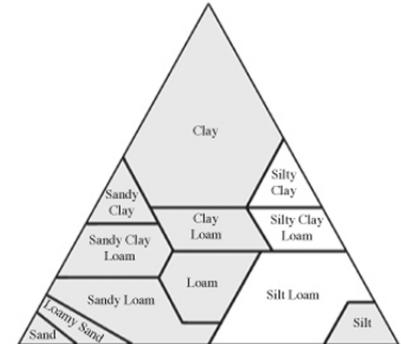
D. If the soil forms a ball but **no** ribbon, go to Step 4.



F. Add the word **silt** or **silty** to the initial classification.

Soil texture is (check one):  silty clay,  
 silty clay loam,  silt loam

Soil Texture is complete.



G. Leave the original classification of (check one):

clay,  clay loam,  loam

Soil Texture is complete.