Soil Texture By Feel Flow Chart

Place approximately two teaspoons of soil in your palm. Add a few drops of water and knead 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.

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?

No

Loamy Sand

Yes

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

Sandy

Loam

Loam

Silty

Silty Clay

Sandy Clay

Clay

Clay

Silt Loam

Silt Loam

Silt Loam

Silty Clay Loam

Silty Clay Loam

Silty Clay

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

% CLAY

% SAND

% HI

% LO