Soil Texture By Feel Flow Chart

Start

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.

Does the soil remain in a ball when squeezed?

Yes → Is the soil too dry?

Yes → Is the soil too wet?

No → Add dry soil to soak up water

No → Sand

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No → Is the soil too wet?

No → Loamy Sand

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

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

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

No → Loamy Sand

Yes → Sandy Loam

Yes → Sandy Clay Loam

Yes → Sandy Clay

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

No → Clay

Yes → Clay Loam

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

No → Silty Clay Loam

Yes → Silty Clay

Yes → Silty Clay