

Soil Texture Test

Soil texture is the percentage of clay, silt, and sand particles in the soil.
(Sand, silt, and clay are the inorganic, mineral components of soil.)

1. Moisten a soil sample to about the consistency of play-doh.
 - **CAUTION: Add water by drops & do not make too wet.**
2. Try to form the sample into a ball in the palm of your hand. If the sample will not stay together to form into a ball, the sample is in **GROUP 1**.
3. Toss or bounce the ball in your palm, if the ball falls apart the soil is in **GROUP 2**.
4. If it stays together place it between both palms and rub them together vigorously. If the ball comes apart the soil is in **GROUP 3**.
5. If it stays together, place it between your thumb and index finger. Apply pressure and rub the sample smoothing it out on your thumb. If the sample is ruffled or broken the soil is in **GROUP 4**.
6. If the soil is slick and shiny, with a soap appearance and feel the soil is in **GROUP 5**.

Hint – if the sample feels gritty (sand) it will usually be on the left side of the group. Example: If it falls into group 3 and feels gritty it is probably a loam. If it is floury and smooth it is probably a silt loam or silt.

