

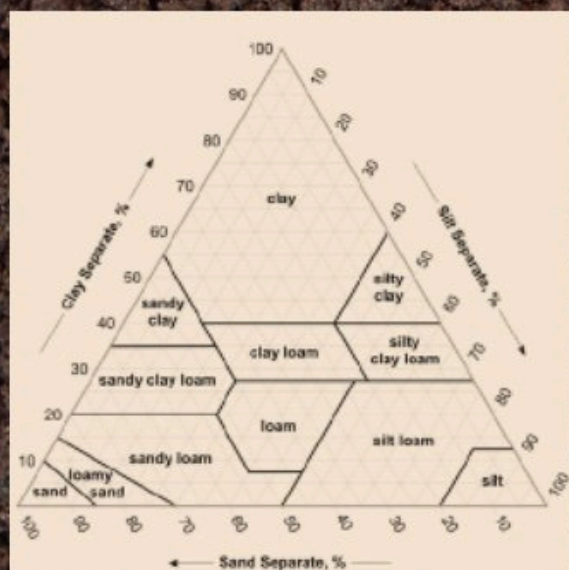
WHAT'S YOUR SOIL'S TEXTURE?

Estimate the texture of your soil with a **SIMPLE HOME TEST!**

1. Remove organic debris (sticks and leaves) from **one cup of soil** and place the soil into a **one-litre mason jar**.
2. Add water to within four centimetres of the top of the jar.
3. Add **one drop of liquid detergent** and shake vigorously for one to two minutes.
4. Allow jar to sit undisturbed for **24 hours**.



Course particles (**SAND**) will settle **first**, with **SILT** and **CLAY** layers settling out **later**. The resulting layers can be measured to estimate the relative amounts of each. By comparing these numbers to a soil triangle (below), soil texture can be estimated.



ANOTHER WAY to estimate texture is the finger test:

Simply rub a small amount of wet soil between your fingers.

You will be able to distinguish between a predominantly sandy soil (**gritty**), a silty soil (**silky but not sticky**) and a clay soil (**smooth and sticky**).

RESOURCES

Chalker-Scott, L. *Soil Myth Busting for Extension Educators: Reviewing the Literature on Soil Structure and Functionality*.

Research Gate. *Canadian Soil Texture Triangle*. https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Canadian-soil-texture-triangle-that-uses-only-two-axes-to-determine-soil-texture-from_fig3_50917086