

Start Here

Texture-by-Feel Analysis

Adapted by Donald G. McGahan from Thein S.J. 1979. A Flow diagram for teaching texture-by-feel_analysis J. Agron. Edu. Vol. 8 pp 54-55.

Place approximately 25 g soil in palm. Add water drop wise and kneed the soil to break down all aggregates. Soil is at the proper consistency when plastic and moldable, like moist putty.

Add dry soil to soak up water

Does soil remain in a ball when squeezed?

Yes

No

Is soil too dry?

No

Yes

No

Is soil too wet?

Sand

Place ball of soil between thumb and forefinger gently pushing the soil with the thumb, squeaking it upward into a ribbon. Form a ribbon of uniform thickness and width. Allow the ribbon to emerge and extend over the forefinger, breaking from its own weight.

Does soil form a ribbon?

Loamy Sand

Does soil make a weak ribbon less than 2.5 cm long before breaking?

Does soil make a medium ribbon 2.5–5 cm long before breaking?

Does soil make a strong ribbon 5 cm long, or longer, before breaking?

Excessivly wet a small pinch of soil in palm and rub with forefinger

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Excessivly wet a small pinch of soil in palm and rub with forefinger

Does soil feel very gritty?

Sandy Loam

Does soil feel very smooth?

Silty Loam

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

Loam

Does soil feel very gritty?

Sandy Clay Loam

Does soil feel very smooth?

Silty Clay Loam

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

Clay Loam

Sandy Clay

Silty Clay

Clay

Does soil feel very gritty?

Does soil feel very smooth?

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.