

Texture by Feel Instructions

Texture Method from Brady and Weil:

Knead a walnut-sized sample of moist soil into a uniform puttylike consistency, slowly adding water if necessary. While kneading sample, note the feel of the sample. A high silt content sample feels smooth with little stickiness. A high sand content sample feels gritty and makes a grinding noise. Estimate the clay content by making a ribbon of soils—make the ribbon as long as possible until it collapses under its own weight. Ribbons are typically made with one hand by squeezing the soil between your thumb and forefinger. The ribbon is like one for someone's hair (relatively flat on one side). Interpret your observations as indicated below.

1. Soil will not cohere into a ball; falls apart >>> **SAND**
2. Soil forms a ball, but will not form a ribbon >>> **LOAMY SAND**
3. Soil ribbon is dull and breaks when less than 2.5 cm long and ...
 - a. grittiness is prominent and a grinding noise is clearly audible >>> **SANDY LOAM**
 - b. a smooth and floury feel is prominent and a grinding is heard >>> **SILT LOAM**
 - c. a slight grittiness and smoothness; grinding not clearly audible >>> **LOAM**
4. Soil exhibits moderate stickiness and firmness; forms ribbons 2.5-5 cm long, and ...
 - a. grittiness is prominent and a grinding noise is clearly audible >>> **SANDY CLAY LOAM**
 - b. a smooth and floury feel is prominent and a grinding is heard >>> **SILT CLAY LOAM**
 - c. a slight grittiness and smoothness; grinding not clearly audible >>> **CLAY LOAM**
5. Soils exhibits dominant stickiness and firmness; forms shiny ribbons more than 5 cm long, and ..
 - a. grittiness is prominent and a grinding noise is clearly audible >>> **SANDY CLAY**
 - b. a smooth and floury feel is prominent and a grinding is heard >>> **SILTY CLAY**
 - c. a slight grittiness and smoothness; grinding not clearly audible >>> **CLAY**