

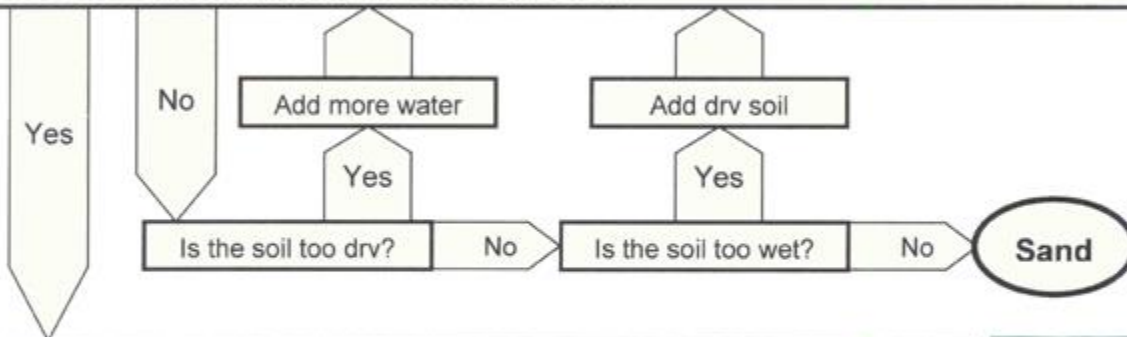
A soil texture triangle is used to classify the texture class of a soil. The sides of the soil texture triangle are scaled for the percentages of sand, silt, and clay. Clay percentages are read from left to right across the triangle (dashed lines). Silt is read from the upper right to lower left (light, dotted lines). Sand from lower right towards the upper left portion of the triangle (bold, solid lines). The boundaries of the soil texture classes are highlighted in blue. The intersection of the three sizes on the triangle give the texture class. For instance, if you have a soil with 20% clay, 60% silt, and 20% sand it falls in the "silt loam" class.

Use the triangle to identify the soil types at station 2.

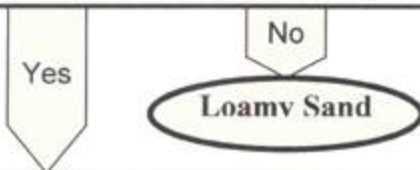


Soil Texture by Feel

Start: Place soil in palm of hand. Add water drop-wise and knead the soil into a smooth and plastic consistency, like moist putty.
Does the soil remain in a ball when squeezed?



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



What kind of ribbon does it form?

Moisten a pinch of soil in palm and rub with forefinger	What kind of ribbon does it form?		
	Forms a weak ribbon less than 1" before breaking	Forms a ribbon 1-2" before breaking	Forms a ribbon 2" or longer before breaking
Does it feel very gritty?	LOAM Sandy Loam	CLAY LOAM Sandy Clay Loam	CLAY Sandy Clay
Does it feel equally gritty and smooth?	Loam	Clay Loam	Clay
Does it feel very smooth?	Silt Loam	Silty Clay Loam	Silty Clay

