

# Soil Texture Field Test

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## Moist Ball Test -

Make a \*moist ball of soil in your hand. If the soil holds together (i.e. forms a ball) when you open your hand, toss the ball in the air. The more durable the ball, the more clay is in the soil. If the ball does not hold together, the more sand is in the soil.

## Ribbon Test -

Squeeze the \*moist soil out between the thumb and a forefinger to form the longest and thinnest ribbon possible. The longer the ribbon, the more clay is in the soil. Soils with high silt content will tend to flake rather than ribbon.

## Feel Test -

Rub \*moist to wet soil between the thumb and fingers to assess the percentage of sand. Sand feels gritty. Silt feels smooth and silky like talcum powder, but isn't sticky. If neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates, the soil is a loam.

**\*Moist Soil** - Add water to soil and knead soil to break down all aggregates. Soil is the proper consistency when plastic and mobile, like moist putty.

Soil Type	Steady Infiltration Rate (inches/hour)
Sands	> 0.8
Loams	0.2 - 0.4
Clays	0.04 - 0.2

