

TESTING SOIL TEXTURE

You will need: a handful of soil, water and a tape measure or ruler.



1. Get a handful of soil from a garden or schoolyard.



2. Wet the soil gradually and work it in your hand until it forms a ball. Keep working the ball of soil until it doesn't change any more.



3. Now, slowly squeeze the soil out between your thumb and your forefinger – pushing away from your body. Watch carefully to see if the soil sticks together and if a “ribbon” forms...

- If the soil won't form any sort of ribbon at all and is very hard to form into a ball, then the soil texture is **SANDY**. Grains of sand will stick to your fingers.
- If you can make a ribbon about an inch long before it breaks off, and the ball of mud feels spongy, but you can't feel any sand grains, then you can describe your soil as **SILT**.
- If the ball of mud feels like very smooth playdough, and you can make a long ribbon of two inches or more, then it is a **CLAY** soil.

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