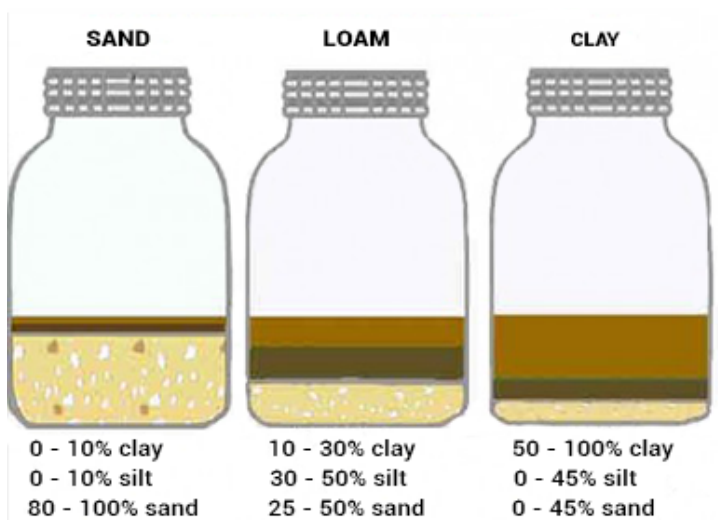


Evaluating Your Soil Texture

1. Dig 6-8 inches into the soil, mix up the loose dirt, and remove stones, sticks, and roots.
2. Fill a 1-quart canning jar (or other sturdy, clear container) half-full of soil and enough water to cover the soil 1-2 inches.
3. Though not necessary, a tablespoon of **dry** dishwasher detergent will provide a surfactant, which keeps the soil particles separate and gives a more accurate test.
4. Secure the lid and shake the jar until the soil, detergent, and water are completely mixed.
5. Put the jar on a flat surface to let the soil settle—minimizing its movement.
6. When you see three distinct layers, mark the levels on the side of the jar using a permanent marker, tape, etc.
 - Sand is the heaviest and will settle at the bottom in a minute or two.
 - Silt will settle on top of the sand layer after about an hour.
 - Clay is the lightest and can take from several hours or days to settle (depending on the amount of water used). The clay layer on top will be finely textured and lighter in color than the silt layer.



Soil texture is determined by the percentage of sand, silt, and clay in a sample and falls in one of 12 specific texture categories.

You may see a layer of material floating on the surface of the water. This is organic matter (OM) and it benefits your soil. The thickness and composition of the OM layer will vary by sampling depth and location.



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