

## The Feel of Textural Classes

1. Sand
  - a. Moist sand sample collapses after squeezing, non-sticky, non-plastic
  - b. Hand stays clean working sample
  - c. Feels gritty
2. Loamy Sand
  - a. Sample has very little body, non-sticky, non-plastic
  - b. Moist soil barely stays together after squeezing.
  - c. Just enough silt to dirty your hands
  - d. Will not form ribbon
3. Sandy Loam
  - a. Sand noticeably evident, non-sticky, non-plastic
  - b. Enough silt and loam to give body
  - c. Moist soil stays together after squeezing
  - d. Barely forms ribbon at all
4. Sandy Clay Loam
  - a. Moist sample feels Gritty and Sticky, slightly plastic
  - b. Forms ribbon 1-2" long
5. Sandy Clay
  - a. Can feel sand in sample, stains fingers, sticky, slightly plastic
  - b. Forms ribbon 2-3" long
6. Loam
  - a. Sand noticeable, but not dominant, nonsticky, nonplastic
  - b. Sample works easily between thumb & forefinger (friable)
  - c. Contains enough silt & clay to give sample good body
  - d. Sample forms only short, broken ribbons
7. Silt Loam
  - a. Feels smooth like flour or cornstarch with grains of sand noticeable
  - b. Tends to be nonsticky, nonplastic
  - c. Forms only short, broken ribbons
8. Silt
  - a. Feels like flour or cornstarch
  - b. Tends to be nonsticky, nonplastic
  - c. Forms ribbons less than 1 inch
9. Clay Loam
  - a. Noticeably gritty, but sand doesn't dominate
  - b. Noticeably sticky, plastic
  - c. Harder to work between thumb & forefinger, stains fingers
  - d. Forms gritty ribbon 1 -2 1/2" long
10. Silty Clay Loam
  - a. Feels smooth & slightly sticky, slightly plastic
  - b. Contains very little sand, stains fingers
  - c. Forms ribbon 1-2 1/2" long
11. Silty Clay
  - a. Dry sample absorbs a lot of water before it's moist enough to work, slightly sticky
  - b. Sample hard to work between thumb & forefinger, stains fingers
  - c. Forms ribbon 2 1/2-4" long, sticky, plastic
12. Clay
  - a. Dry sample absorbs a lot of water before it's moist enough to work, very sticky
  - b. Sample hard to work between thumb & forefinger, stains fingers, smooth satiny feel
  - c. Forms flexible ribbon 2 1/2-4" long, sticky, retains plasticity