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Conducting a Simple Soil Sedimentation Test

Center for Urban Resilience

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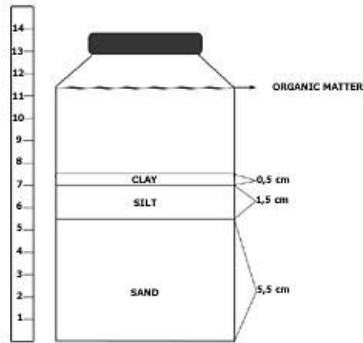
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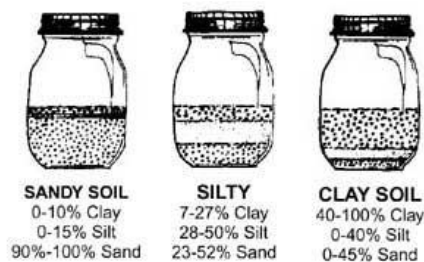
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Conducting a Simple Soil Sedimentation Test – Determining Soil Texture Type

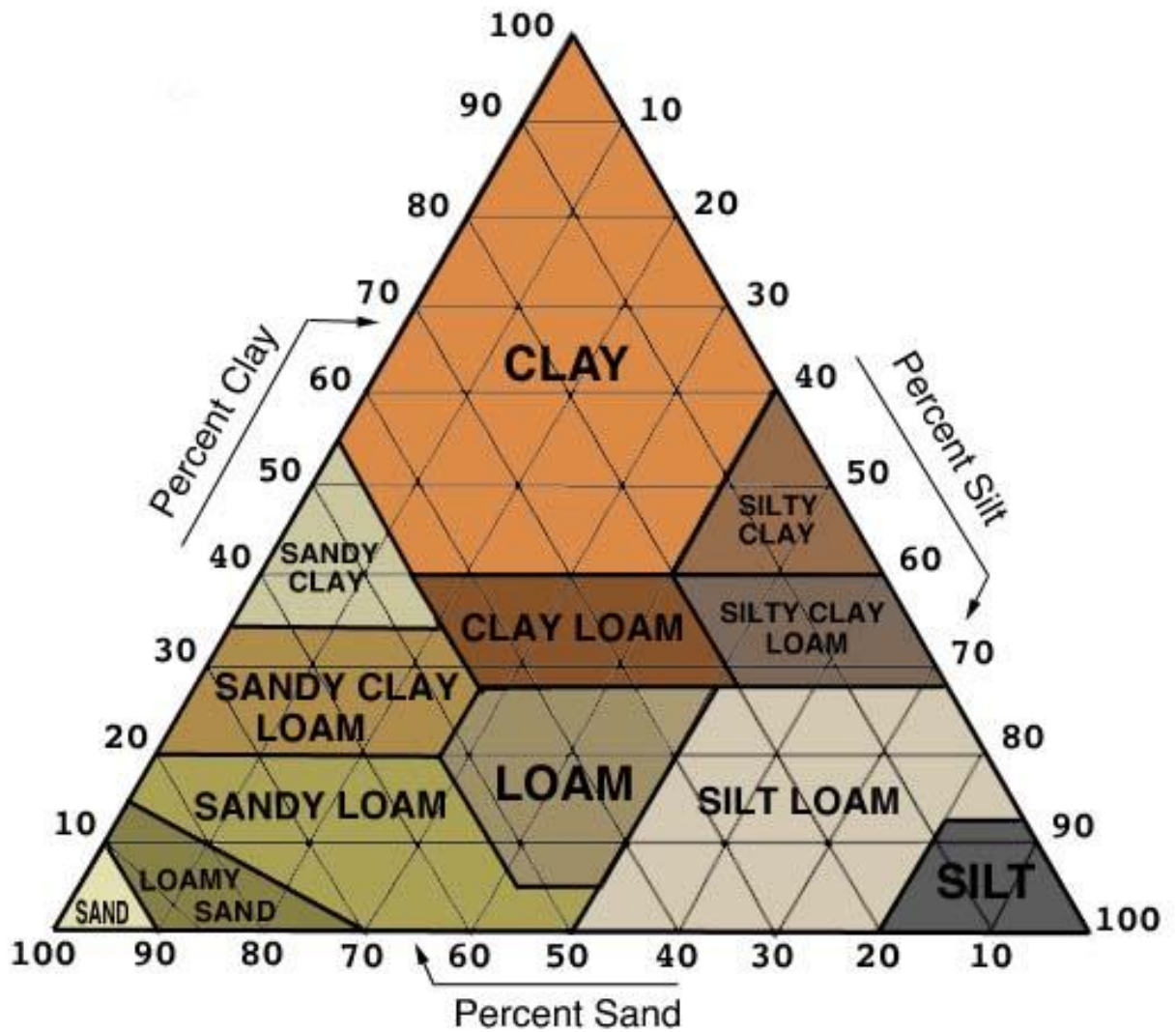


1. You will need a straight-sided glass jar (quart size or somewhat larger) with a tight-fitting lid. A canning jar or peanut butter jar works well.
2. Fill the jar about 1/3 full with dry soil. If your soil has clumps or clods, break them up before placing them in the jar.
3. You can add a Tablespoon of dry, non-foaming dishwasher soap to help the soil layers separate more clearly. You can also do the test without the dishwasher soap.
4. Fill the jar with water, up to about 1 inch below the rim.
5. Place the lid on the jar, then shake vigorously to mix the soil and water well.
6. Place the jar on a level surface. Using a marker, mark the level of the soil sediment on the side of the jar at the following times.
 - a. After 1-2 minutes this is your SAND layer
 - b. After 1 hour this is your SILT layer
 - c. After 24 hours* this is your clay layer
 you may also have some floating ORGANIC MATERIAL
7. Use a ruler to measure the depth of each layer, then calculate the percentages of sand, silt and clay.



8. Determine your soil texture type using the soils triangle on the following page.
9. My soil type is: _____

* or until the water is relatively clear – this may take several days



Images from: International Cannographic - <https://www.icmag.com/ic/showthread.php?t=49474>