

## Testing Your Own Soil:

Good soil starts with a balanced level of all necessary particles. Ideally you are looking for minimums of 30% sand, 30% silt, 20% clay and 5 to 10% organic matter. Those ratios can fluctuate so aiming for something in that range is the ideal "Loam" for plant growth.

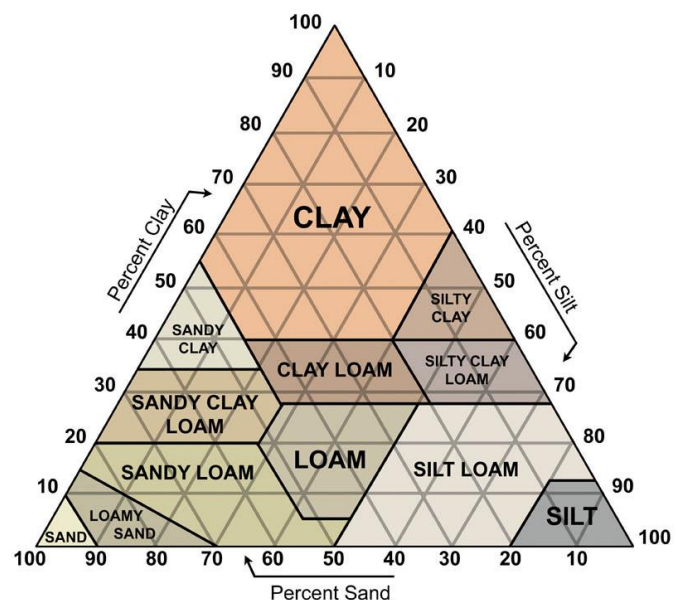
The more organic matter you have the more biology you are decomposing and extracting minerals for your plants while maintaining hydration!

You can easily find out if your soil has the right mix of ingredients, all it takes is a 1 litre glass jar, 450ml of rain or soft water (you can use town water but will need 15ml of water softener)

You need to take approximately 200ml worth of soil from the top 30cm of the area you want to test. Add this soil to the jar with 450ml of soft water. Close the jar and shake vigorously so all particles become suspended in the water. Place the jar somewhere safe so you can watch what happens. The sand will settle to the bottom first, then it takes a few hours for the silt to rest on top of the sand. The small clay particles can stay in suspension for hours and the organic matter will float to the top.

Wait 24 hours then measure the height of each layer. Divide the total height of all layers combined into the height of each layer, then multiple that number by 100 to determine the percentages.

If you want to, you can compare your results to the Soil Texture Triangle that still completely ignores the importance of organic matter!



  
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