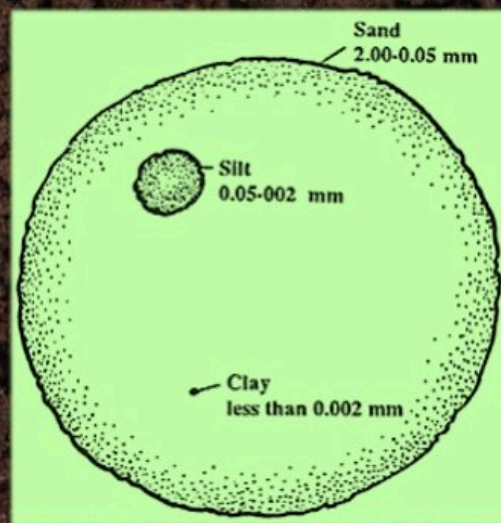


# WHAT IS SOIL TEXTURE?

Soil texture is a measurement of the minerals in your soil – those ground up bits of rock which are pulverized by erosion into small particles over thousands of years. Soil texture is determined by the **PROPORTIONS** of **sand**, **silt** and **clay** particles in your soil.

- **SAND** ... The gritty bits. Each grain is about the size of the head of a pin or less.
- **SILT** ... Smooth and soft like cornstarch. Silt particles are about the diameter of a human hair.
- **CLAY** ... Sticky when wet. Each bit is microscopic, about the size of a bacteria.



Soil texture has an **ENORMOUS** effect on soil's **water retention ability** and on **nutrient availability**.

**CLAY** and **SILTY** soils hold more water and nutrients, but are easily compacted.

**SANDY** soils drain freely and resist compaction, but nutrients are easily leached from the soil.

Gardeners' dream of **LOAM**, an ideal soil in which the mineral content consists of about **40 percent sand**, **40 percent silt** and **20 percent clay**.

An ideal **SOIL** would be made up of **45 percent minerals** [**sand**, **clay**, **silt**], **five percent organic matter** (plant and animal), **25 percent air** and **25 percent water**.

## RESOURCES

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/soil-texture>

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agriculture-and-environment/soil-and-land/soil-and-water/soil-texture-and-water-quality>