

The following test can be used to determine the type of soil you have in a sample. Use an auger or similar device for get a small handful of soil as a sample. Then, starting at question one, follow the key until you have a soil type.

1. Can you roll the soil into a good ball?	Yes	Go to Q2
	Only with care	LOAMY SOIL
2. What happens when you squeeze the ball between your finger and thumb?	It flattens but it does not crack	Go to Q3
	It breaks up	SANDY LOAM
3. Wet it a little. Can you roll it into a sausage about 5mm thick?	Yes	Go to Q4
	No	LOAMY SAND
4. Wet it a little more. Can you now roll it into a thread about 2mm thick?	Yes	Go to Q5
	No	SANDY LOAM
5. Can you bend it into a horseshoe shape without it cracking?	Yes	Go to Q7
	No	Go to Q6
6. Wet the soil again and then rub it between your thumb and forefinger. What does it feel like?	Smooth and pasty	SILT LOAM
	Rough and gritty	SANDY SILT LOAM
7. Can you make a small ring by joining the two ends together without it cracking?	Yes	Go to Q8
	No	Go to Q9
8. Roll it again but do not wet it. Try to polish the surface with your thumb.	Smooth polish	Go to Q10
	Yes, but particles visible	SANDY CLAY
	No	Go to Q9
9. Re-wet and rub it between your thumb and forefinger. How does it feel?	Very gritty	SANDY CLAY LOAM
	Fairly rough	CLAY LOAM
	Heavy and doughy	SILT CLAY LOAM
10. Wet the soil again and try to get it to stick your fingers together.	Sticks firmly	CLAY
	Sticks not so firmly	SILTY CLAY