



Soil Texture

Name: _____

Things to Remember

The textural triangle shows three major soil groups: clay, silt, and sand.

Ribbons can be formed as follows:

- Clays form good ribbons
- Clay loams form medium ribbons
- Loams form poor ribbons
- Sand does not form a ribbon

Note: Ribboning the soil is a means of estimating clay content.

Procedure

1. Place about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 teaspoon of soil in the palm of your hand.
2. Using a water squeeze bottle, add water very slowly, drop by drop.
3. Knead the soil constantly, while adding water, to make the soil into a putty-like ball.
4. Press the soil ball into a ribbon between your thumb and forefinger. Record ribbon length in centimeters (cm).
5. Note how far the ribbon extends past the fingers without breaking.

6. Determine whether the soil is clay, clay loam, or loam with reference to the modified soil texture triangle below. Circle good, medium, or poor.
7. Firmly press the soil sample between your thumb and forefinger to determine if there are sand grains in the sample; that is, sandy clay, sandy clay loam, or sandy loam. If the sample is exceptionally smooth feeling, it is clay, a clay loam, or a loam.