

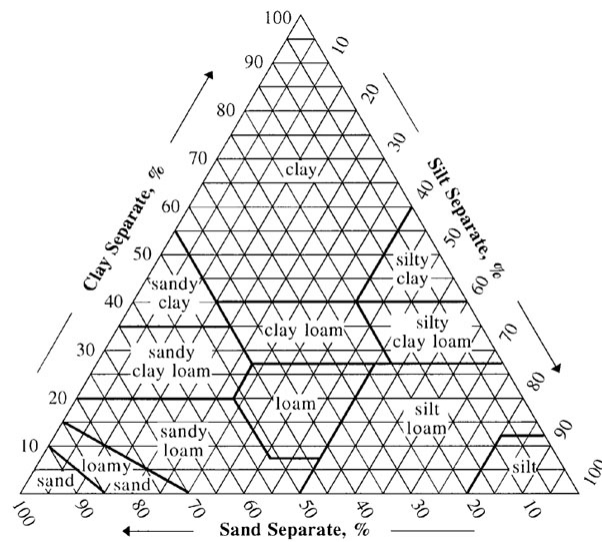
Soil: Determining Soil Texture By Feel

By Jeff Schalaus
Agent, ANR
Yavapai County



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Soil Textural Triangle



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Sieve the Soil Sample

- Use a 2mm sieve to separate soil from rocks and gravel
- A kitchen colander can be used if it has 2mm openings
- Estimate the percent soil compared to gravel



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Sieves



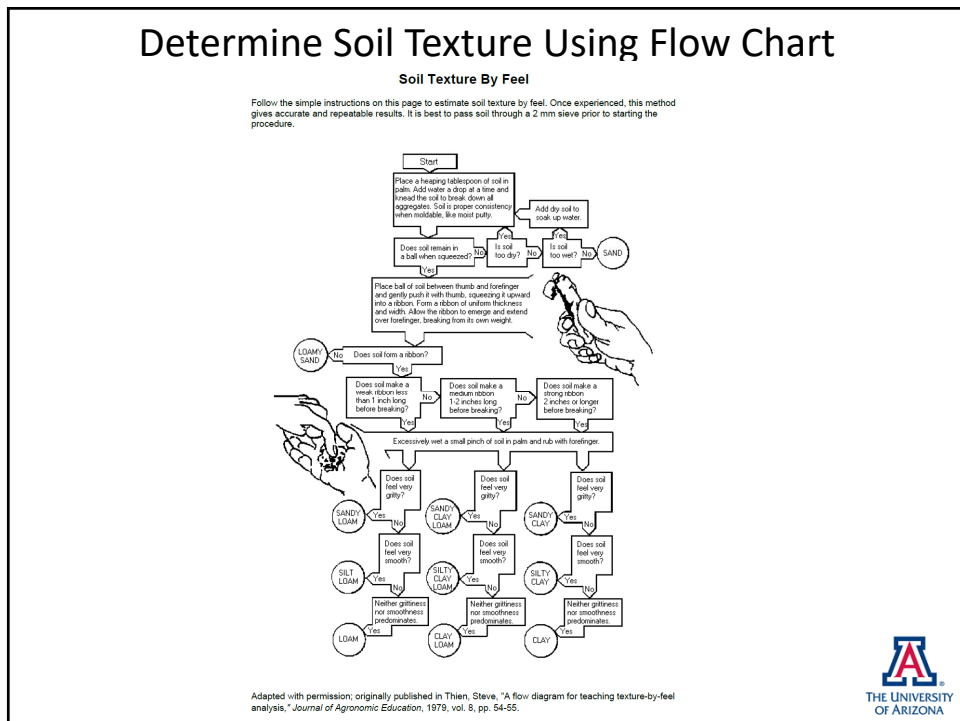
Kitchen Colander and 2mm Soil Sieve



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First Step: Does moist soil stay in a ball?

Soil A



If not, the soil is considered a “sand”.



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Second Step: Does moist soil form a ribbon and if so, how long is it?

Soil A



This ribbon is less than 1” long



8

Second Step: Does moist soil form a ribbon and if so, how long is it?



This ribbon is between 1" and 2" long



9

Second Step: Does moist soil form a ribbon and if so, how long is it?



This ribbon is longer than 2"



10

Third Step: Does excessively wet soil feel gritty, smooth, or somewhere in between?

Soil A



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Soil Textures of Samples

Soil	Ball?	Ribbon?	Grittiness/Smoothness	Textural Class
A	Y	< 1"	Gritty	Sandy Loam
B	Y	1" – 2"	Neither dominant	Clay Loam
C	Y	> 2"	Gritty	Sandy Clay



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