

SOIL TEXTURING BY HAND – Dichotomous Key

Using a moist sample of the soil, assess the soil texture using the following key.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Ans.</u>	
1 Does the soil feel or sound noticeably sandy?	YES NO	Go To Q.2 Go To Q.6
2 Does the soil lack all cohesion?	YES NO	SAND Go To Q.3
3 Is it difficult to roll the soil into a ball?	YES NO	LOAMY SAND Go To Q.4
4 Does the soil feel smooth and silky as well as sandy?	YES NO	SANDY SILT LOAM Go To Q.5
5 Does the soil mold to form a strong ball which smears without taking a polish? LOAM	YES NO	SANDY CLAY SANDY LOAM
6 Does the soil mold to form an easily deformed ball and feel smooth and silky?	YES NO	SILT LOAM Go To Q.7
7 Does the soil mold to form a strong ball which smears without taking a polish?	YES NO	Go To Q.8 Go To Q.10
8 Is the soil also sandy? LOAM	YES NO	SANDY CLAY Go To Q.9
9 Is the soil also smooth and silky?	YES NO	SILTY CLAY LOAM CLAY LOAM
10 Does the soil mold like plastic, polish and feel very sticky when wetter? organic	YES NO	Go To Q.11 Start again unless
11 Is the soil also sandy?	YES NO	SANDY CLAY Go To Q.12
12 Is the soil also smooth and buttery?	YES NO	SILTY CLAY CLAY