Place approximately 25 g soil in palm. Add water dropwise and knead the soil to break down all aggregates. Soil is at the proper consistency when plastic and moldable, like moist putty.

Does soil remain in a ball when squeezed?  

Yes: Place ball of soil between thumb and forefinger gently pushing the soil with the thumb, squeezing it upward into a ribbon. Form a ribbon of uniform thickness and width. Allow the ribbon to emerge and extend over the forefinger, breaking from its own weight.

No: Is soil too dry?  

Yes: Add dry soil to soak up water.  

No: Is soil too wet?  

Yes: SAND

No: LOAMY SAND

Does soil form a ribbon?  

Yes: Does soil make a weak ribbon less than 2.5 cm long before breaking?  

No: Does soil make a medium ribbon 2.5-5 cm long before breaking?  

Yes: Does soil make a strong ribbon 5 cm or longer before breaking?  

Excessively wet a small pinch of soil in palm and rub with forefinger.

Yes: SANDY LOAM

No: SANDY CLAY LOAM

Does soil feel very gritty?  

Yes: SANDY CLAY

No: Silt LOAM

Does soil feel very smooth?  

Yes: SILTY LOAM

No: CLAY LOAM

Does soil feel neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.  

Yes: LOAM

No: CLAY

Does soil feel neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.  

Yes: CLAY

No: Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.