Place a tablespoon of soil in your palm. Add water drop by drop and knead to break up aggregates. Add water and knead until the soil is the consistency of moldable putty.

Does soil stay in a ball when squeezed? Yes → Is the soil too dry? Yes → Is the soil too wet? Yes → SAND

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

Does soil form a ribbon? No → LOAMY SAND

Yes → Does soil make a weak ribbon less than 1 inch long before breaking? Yes → Does soil make a medium ribbon 1 to 2 inches long before breaking? Yes → Does soil make a strong ribbon 2 inches or longer before breaking?

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

Does the soil feel very gritty? Yes → SANDY LOAM

No → Does the soil feel very smooth? Yes → SILT LOAM

ASIL CLAY LOAM

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

NOAM

CLAY

CLAY