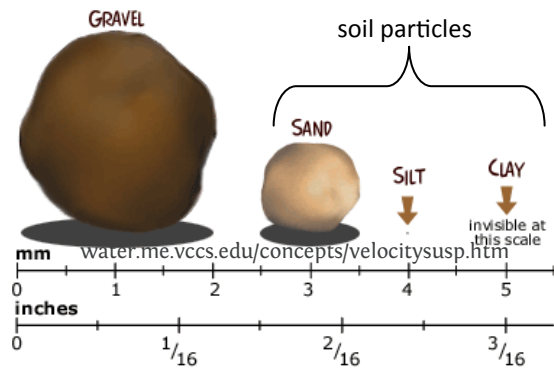
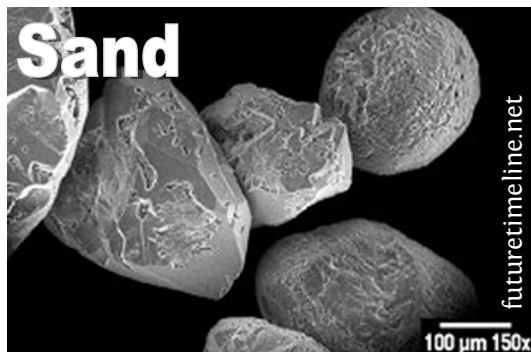


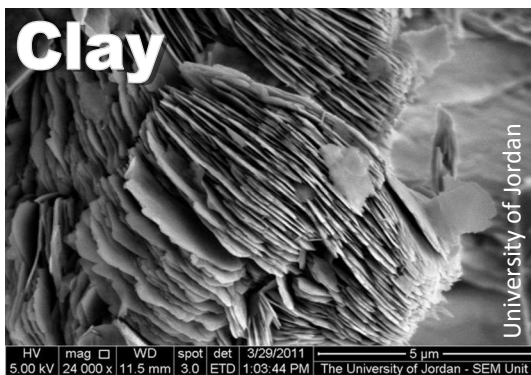
Soil texture is the % of sand, silt and clay.



Scanning Electron Micrographs reveal the structure of sand and clay to help us understand the different properties of each texture component.



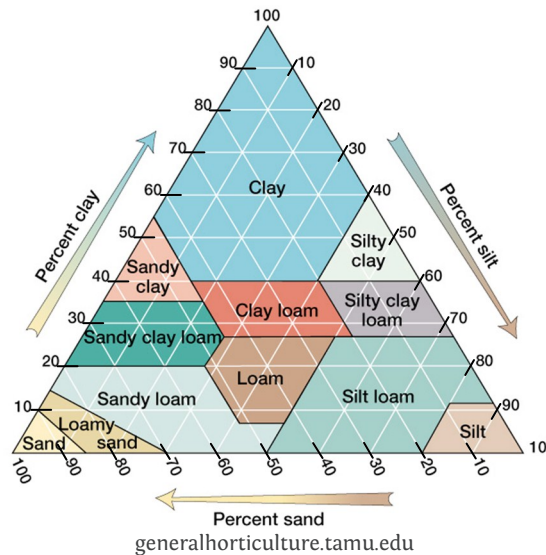
Silt is shaped like sand but smaller.



Clay stores more nutrients and water than sand because it has **-10,000 times** as much surface area.

Soil Texture Triangle

This three-sided graph shows the percent of sand, silt and clay in each soil texture.



Discover Soil Texture

WHAT is soil texture?
 WHY is soil texture important?
 TRY the soil texture hand-method!

Why is soil texture important?

Understanding soil texture helps with informed, efficient and cost-effective management of farms, gardens and landscapes. The table below compares sandy and clayey soil properties that influence management decisions.

Property	Sandy Soil	Clayey Soil
Water-holding capacity	Low	High
Aeration	Good	Poor
Drainage	High	Very Slow
Nutrient retention	Low	High



To learn more about soil, water and related resources, visit the Benton SWCD website
www.bentonswcd.org
 Or email office@bentonswcd.org

Soil Texture by Hand

Try this at home!

