Soil Texture Encyclopedia Article

Soil Texture

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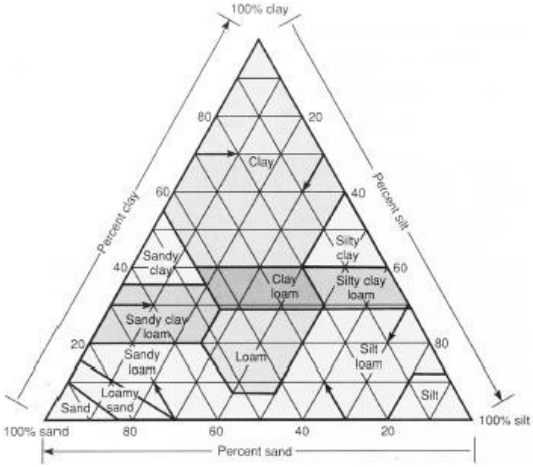
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Soil Texture

The relative proportion of the mineral particles that make up a **soil** or the percent of sand, **silt**, and clay found in a soil. Texture is an important soil characteristic because it influences water **infiltration**, water storage, amount of **aeration**, ease of tilling the soil, ability to withstand a load, and soil fertility. Textural names are given to soil based on the percentage of sand, silt, and clay. For example, loam is a soil with equal proportions of sand, silt, and clay. It is best for growing most crops.



Soil texture depends on the relative proportions of sand, silt and clay in a soil, as represented in this diagram. (McGraw-Hill Inc. Reproduced by permission.)