START

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?

Is soil too dry?

Is soil too wet?

Add dry soil to soak up water

Yes

Yes

Is soil in a ball when squeezed?

No

Does soil form a ribbon?

Yes

No

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.

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

Yes

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

No

Does soil make a medium ribbon 2.5-5 cm long before breaking?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

LOAMY SAND

SANDY LOAM

Does soil feel very gritty?

Yes

SANDY CLAY

Does soil feel very gritty?

Yes

CLAY

Does soil feel very gritty?

Yes

SANDY LOAM

SILTY CLAY

Does soil feel very smooth?

Yes

SILTY LOAM

CLAY

Does soil feel very smooth?

Yes

LOAM

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.