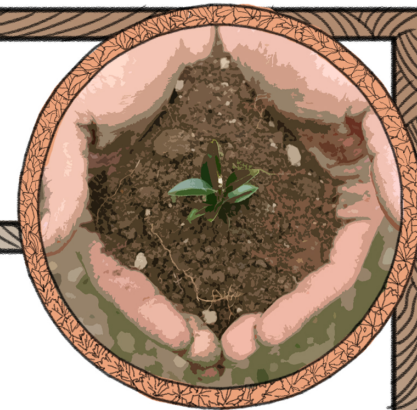


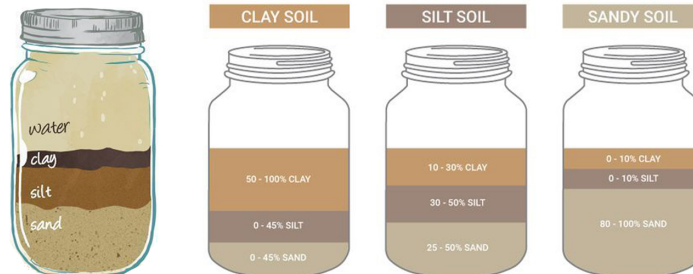
SOIL TESTING MADE EASY



“The Mason Jar Test”

Items needed for this test:

- Quart sized mason jar
- Your soil
- Dish soap
- Water



1. First, fill your mason jar with soil from around your garden until it is half full.
2. Then, add water to the mason jar, but do not fill to the top, as you must shake the jar.
3. Add about a teaspoon of dish soap.
4. Afterwards, tighten the lid to your mason jar and shake it for at least 3 minutes.
5. Set the jar aside for at least 24hrs., or until contents will have settled into distinct layers.

“Mason Jar Test” - Reading the Results

Sandy Soil is likely your soil type if your water is fairly clear with sandy particles sinking to the bottom of the jar.

15% clay, 20% silt, 65% sand = **Sandy Loam**

- o Try adding compost to help increase the water retention, as it drains very quickly.

Clay or Silty Soil may be your soil type if your water remains murky with a thin layer of dirt at the bottom. A silty soil type may mirror this result

30% clay, 60% silt, 10% sand = **Silty Clay Loam**

15% clay, 65% silt, 20% sand = **Silty Loam**

- o You will need to add 6-8 inches of organic material (grass clippings, rotted manure, compost) over your planting area, then mix it into your soil.

Peaty Soil results when there is a lot of debris floating on the surface of your water, and a thin layer of sediment settles at the bottom.

- o Since peaty soil cannot retain nutrients very well, you will need to fertilize your plants when needed.

Chalky soil might be your soil type if there is a layer of white, grit-like fragments along the bottom of your jar.

- o Water and nutrients drain quickly from this soil, so you may add lots of organic material to your soil, and till it in.
- o Mulching will also help your plants retain moisture.

Loamy soil is the ideal soil type, and can be identified if your jar is clear, with a layer of sediment on the bottom, and fine particles on top.

- o You need not add any amendments to loam soil, other than regular mulching or fertilizing when needed.