By the “Feel Method”

START

Place approximately one tablespoon of soil in palm. Add water a drop at a time and knead the soil to break down all aggregates. Soil is at the proper consistency when plastic and mobile, like moist putty.

Does soil remain in a ball when squeezed? NO

Is soil too dry? NO

Is soil too wet? NO

SAND

1/0-10%

Add dry soil to soak up water.

YES

SAND

1/0-10%

Does soil form a ribbon? NO

LOAMY SAND

0-15%

Does soil make a weak ribbon less than 1” long before breaking? NO

EXCESSIVELY WET

NO

Does soil make a medium ribbon 1” to 2” long before breaking? NO

SANDY LOAM

0-20%

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

YES

Does soil make a strong ribbon 2” or longer before breaking? NO

SANDY CLAY

0-20%

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

SANDY LOAM

20-35%

SANDY CLAY

35-55%

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

SILT or SILT LOAM

0-27%

Silty CLAY

40-60%

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

CLAY LOAM

27-40%

CLAY

40-100%

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

SANDY LOAM

0-20%

Does soil feel very gritty? YES

SANDY CLAY

20-35%

Does soil feel very gritty? YES

SANDY CLAY

35-55%

Does soil feel very gritty? YES

SILT or SILT LOAM

0-27%

Silty CLAY

40-60%

Does soil feel very smooth? YES

CLAY LOAM

27-40%

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

CLAY

40-100%

Neither grittiness nor smoothness predominates.

1/ Clay percentage range.