



Soil Test

Step 1: Using a trowel, dig a small soil sample, free from mulch. Sift to remove any large stones or roots and fill a jar halfway.

Step 2: Add water until jar is 3/4 full.

Step 3: Screw lid in place and shake vigorously for a minute until it appears as a muddy slurry. Set jar on well-lit counter, leave for 2 days.

Step 4: Once settled, the jar will have distinct layers. Sand is heaviest and sinks to the bottom, followed by silt, and clay will remain suspended in water at the top of the jar.

Soil Components

CLAY: high percentage of fine particles with little room for oxygen. Compacts easily, drains poorly & can dry out quickly in hot summer sun. Adding compost and organic materials (leaves, twigs, etc) promotes oxygen in soil

SANDY: low in organic matter, porous, drains water quickly, susceptible to erosion.

LOAM: Ideal soil composition. Balance of organic materials, mineral content, air, and microbial life. Well drained, easy to dig, rich in plant food.

