

SOIL COMPOSITION TEST

Requirements

- 1 quart jar with lid, (Pickle, mayonnaise or peanut butter work)
- 1 cup of dry soil from top 9" of bed – mix soil from several locations in the bed
- Remove rocks and other debris
- A little dry or liquid of dishwashing detergent
- 1 ruler

- Fill jar 2/3 full of water
- Add detergent and shake until mixed
- Add soil and shake jar for 10 minutes non stop
- Set jar down quickly in a place where it will not be moved
- The sand will settle out in 2 minutes
- The silt will take 2 hours
- Clay may take a week

When the water on top is mostly clear, measure the width of each part of the soil and convert the numbers to a percentage of the whole profile.

- Sand should be in the range of 50%- 70%
- Silt less than 10%
- Clay the remainder

In a high sand or silt soil add compost or other humus material
In a high clay soil, add compost or other humus material. Do not add sand, that turns the soil into concrete!