

Soil evaluation by means of a finger test

Instructions for evaluating the soil texture

(grain size fraction < 0.01 mm)

Please note: never do the test on dry soil!

Determining characteristics	Elutriable particles <0.01 mm	Soil texture
1. Try to quickly roll out the sample between the palms of your hands to form a <u>pencil-thick rod</u> a) Cannot be rolled: sand group → 2. b) Can be rolled: sandy loam, loam and clay group → 4. 2. Check the cohesiveness between your thumb and index a) Non-cohesive: sand → 3. b) Cohesive:		
3. Crush in the palm of your hand a) No clayey material visible in the lines of your hand:	14 – 18 %	Loamy sand (IS)
b) Clayey material visible in the lines of your hand:	0 – 9 %	Sand (S)
	10 – 13 %	Slightly loamy sand (IS, SI)
4. Try to roll out the sample to <u>half-pencil thickness</u> a) Cannot be rolled out b) Can be rolled out: sandy loam, loam or clay → 5.	19 – 23 %	Strongly sandy loam (sL, SL)
5. Squeeze a sample between your thumb and index close to your ear: a) Strong crunching: b) No or weak crunching: loam or clay → 6.	14 – 29 %	Sandy loam (sL)
6. Assess the smeared surface during the ribbon test a) Dull smear surface: b) Shiny smear surface: clay → 7.	30 – 40 %	Loam (L)
7. Test between your teeth a) Gritty: b) Buttery consistency:	45 – 60 %	Loamy clay (LC)
	61 – 100%	Clay (C)

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FINGER TEST