

Assessing your soil



This simple, quick soil test describes soil by comparing a spadeful with a reference chart. A quality score is given which lets you know if the soil structure needs to be improved

Different soil types

Sandy texture



Medium texture



Clay texture



Different land uses:

Forest



Grass



Arable loose



Arable compact



Different layers:

Single layer



Two layers



Three layers



Further details:

Ball, B.C., Batey, T. and Munkholm, L. 2007. Field assessment of soil structural quality – a development of the Peerlkamp test. Soil Use and Management 23: 329-337.

Links:

Report of meeting in Peronne, France in 2005 to discuss visual methods to measure soil structure

http://iworx5.webxtra.net/~istroorg/download/WG%20Visual%20Soil%20Structure%20Assessment_Field%20meeting.pdf

Environment Agency (UK) 'Think Soils' assessment for susceptibility to erosion and run off

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/soils.aspx>

Visual Soil Assessment from the Soil Management Initiative

http://www.potato.org.uk/media_files/campaigns_kt/vsa.pdf

National Soil Resources Institute guide to better soil structure

http://www.soil-net.com/legacy/downloads/resources/structure_brochure.pdf

Muncheberg Soil Quality Rating

http://www.zalf.de/home_zalf/institute/blf/blf_e/mitarbeiter/mueller/pdf/field_mueller.pdf

Soil Profile Assessment

<http://www.isara.fr/fr/profilcultural/>