

Soil hand texturing guide

Start



Is the moist soil predominantly
rough and gritty?

Yes Does the soil stain the fingers?

No

Sand

Is it difficult to roll the soil into a ball?

Yes

Lumpy Sand

Does soil feel
smooth and silty as
well as gritty?

No

Sandy Loam

Does soil mould to form an
easily deformed ball and feel
smooth and silty (buttery)?

Yes

Yes

Sandy Silt Loam

Does soil mould to form a
strong ball which smears, but
does not take a polish?

Yes

No

Silt Loam

No

No

Clay Loam

Also rough and gritty

Yes

Sandy Clay Loam

Also smooth and silty

Yes

Silty Clay Loam

Soil moulds like plasticine,
polishes, and feels very sticky
when wet.

Yes

Yes

Clay

Also rough and gritty

Yes

Sandy Clay

Also smooth and buttery

Yes

Silty Clay