

1. Collect a soil sample from one specific area of your property (lawn, flowerbed, vegetable garden, etc) and submit it to the Extension Office for testing. Use the video in the PowerPoint to guide you. You may get a free-soil sample test kit at our office.

2. Soil Texture Jar Test

You will need a clean, clear, straight sided jar with a lid, a permanent marker, powdered dish detergent, and a ruler.

- a) Fill your jar with a soil from your landscape that has been sifted with all rocks and debris removed
 - b) Fill the jar leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " of headspace with clean water
 - c) Put the lid on the jar and shake vigorously for 1 minute
 - d) Set the jar in a location where it will not be disturbed for 24 hours
 - e) Using the permanent marker, make a line at each of the layers in the jar and measure the heights
1. The bottom layer is the heaviest, sand
 2. The middle layer is the silt/loam layer
 3. The top layer is from the smallest particles, clay

Overall soil height = _____ inches

Sand = _____ inches

Silt/loam = _____ inches

Clay = _____ inches

Using these numbers, calculate the percentage of:

_____ % Sand _____ % Silt _____ % Clay

Refer to the soil triangle (figure 1-7) in your handbook to determine your soil type.