

Soil Types

S - Sands do not stain the fingers when wet. They feel gritty, lacking cohesion when wet and are loose when dry. Any water squirted onto the surface quickly disappears and the surface returns to matt.

LS - Loamy Sands feels gritty but when moist can form a weak fragile ball, but are not sticky. The ball quickly collapses. Unlike sands the surface will retain a glistening wet look when water is applied.

SL - Sandy Loams feel gritty, but easily mold to form a deformed ball. Rolling causes the soil to break into short threads. The wet soil is slightly sticky, unlike loamy sands.

SZL - Sandy Silt Loams when moist mold more easily than sandy loams because of the silt content. They feel equally gritty and soapy. The wet soil clings to fingers.

ZL - Silt Loams when moist form an easily deformed ball, but the soapy feel of the silt predominates. The wet soil clings to fingers.

CL - Clay Loams are usually easily molded and rolled into threads. Balls are moderately robust and depending on the clay content either smear or ruck. Stickier than sandy loams and sandy silt loams, but are not as sticky as clays.

SCL - Sandy Clay Loams are distinctly more sticky than a sandy loam, but still gritty. The moist soil molds into a deformable, coherent ball, which smears when rubbed. The sand particles are usually visible in the smeared surface.

ZCL - Silty Clay Loams have a smooth soapy feel. The moist soil forms an easily deformed ball. The soil smears slightly. When wet, silty clay loams are stickier than silt loams, but like silt loams, they cling to the fingers.

C - Clays mold to form durable balls, which are difficult to deform. The soil smears to give a polished surface. The soil can be rolled into long threads provided it is sufficiently moist. Wet clays are very sticky but do not adhere to fingers. They do not feel smooth and soapy.

SC - Sandy Clays bind together strongly. Deformation of a ball is difficult. Sand is obvious on the smeared surface. When wet it is very sticky.

ZC - Silty Clays are similar to clays but feel smoother and butterier when moist. They adhere to the fingers and are very sticky.