

Soil Texture

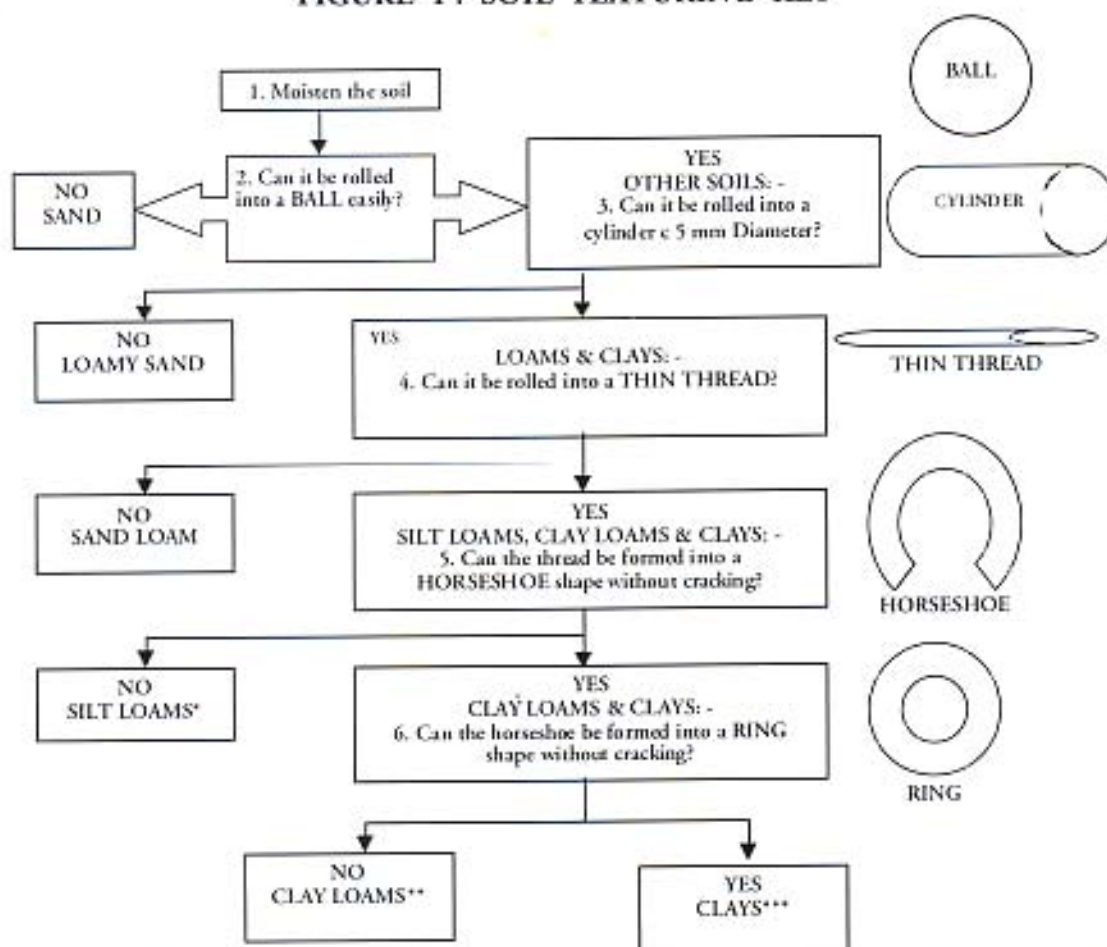
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It is very important for farmers to know their soil texture for ease of cultivation, liming, and fertiliser requirement and determine water-holding capacity of the soil. Soil texture consists of relative proportions of sand, silt and clay, which is

different in size and shape depends on dominant particle size distribution of the soil. The most rapid, cheap and reliable method to assess soil texture is through hand texturing (Fig. 1).

FIGURE 1: SOIL TEXTURING KEY



	Soil texture	General Description
.	SILTY LOAMS	Feels smooth & pasty – SILTY LOAM Feels rough & abrasive – SANDY SILT LOAM
**	CLAY LOAMS	Feels gritty – SANDY CLAY LOAM Feels moderately rough – CLAY LOAM Feels like dough – SILTY CLAY LOAM
***	CLAYS	Feels gritty – SANDY CLAY Feels moderately or very sticky – SILTY CLAY
Hand texturing not necessary	PEAT	Dark in colour, high organic matter and low density