

Soil Analysis

What's in your back yard?

Grab a shovel and let's see what is between your toes!

You will need:

- Mason jar
- Ruler
- Soil
- Water

Set up:

1. Fill jar half full of dry soil. The soil will need to contain no rocks and minimal grass or other debris for best results.
2. Fill jar with water and seal tightly with lid.
3. Shake jar to mix soil and water together.
4. Leave sit for 1-3 days

Results:

1. The sediment (clay, silt, and sand) will have settled out. Measure the total amount of sediment – do not include water in this measurement.
2. Measure each layer of sediment individually. Sand will be on the bottom, silt in the middle, and clay on top.
3. Divide each of the measurements by the total measurement to get the percent of each sediment in the sample.
4. Match up the percentages and connect the lines on the soil triangle to determine the type of soil in your area.

Total Sediment: _____ cm

Sand: _____ cm / total sediment _____ cm = _____ % sand

Silt: _____ cm / total sediment _____ cm = _____ % sand

Clay: _____ cm / total sediment _____ cm = _____ % sand

Type of soil: _____

