



## Experiment 1 Finger sample for soil type determination

Sandy, clayey or rather loamy? What kind of soil do you have in front of your doorstep? Get a shovel full of soil and try to find out with the finger sample test! If you want you can try this with different soils from different places!

First remove larger stones and plant roots. If the soil is very dry, drizzle some water over it. The soil should be so moist that it sticks to your fingers. Compare your soil sample to the following basic components of soil:



Sand



Loam



Clay

**Grind the soil sample between your thumb and forefinger. How does the soil feel?  
Mark which answer applies.**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rough and grainy  | → sandy soil  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mealy and velvety | → loamy soil  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> smooth and sticky | → clayey soil |

**Try to roll the soil sample between your hands into a sausage about the thickness of a pencil. What do you notice?**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The soil cannot be rolled at all.   | → sandy soil  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The soil can be shaped a little.<br>I can roll the soil into a sausage the thickness of a pencil,<br>but it quickly crumbles again. | → loamy soil  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The soil is easy to shape.<br>I can roll it out into a thin sausage.  | → clayey soil |

**My soil is a \_\_\_\_\_.\***

\* If you cannot clearly determine your soil, then particles of different sizes are probably mixed in your soil.  
For example, there is clayey loam, i.e. loam with a high clay content.