

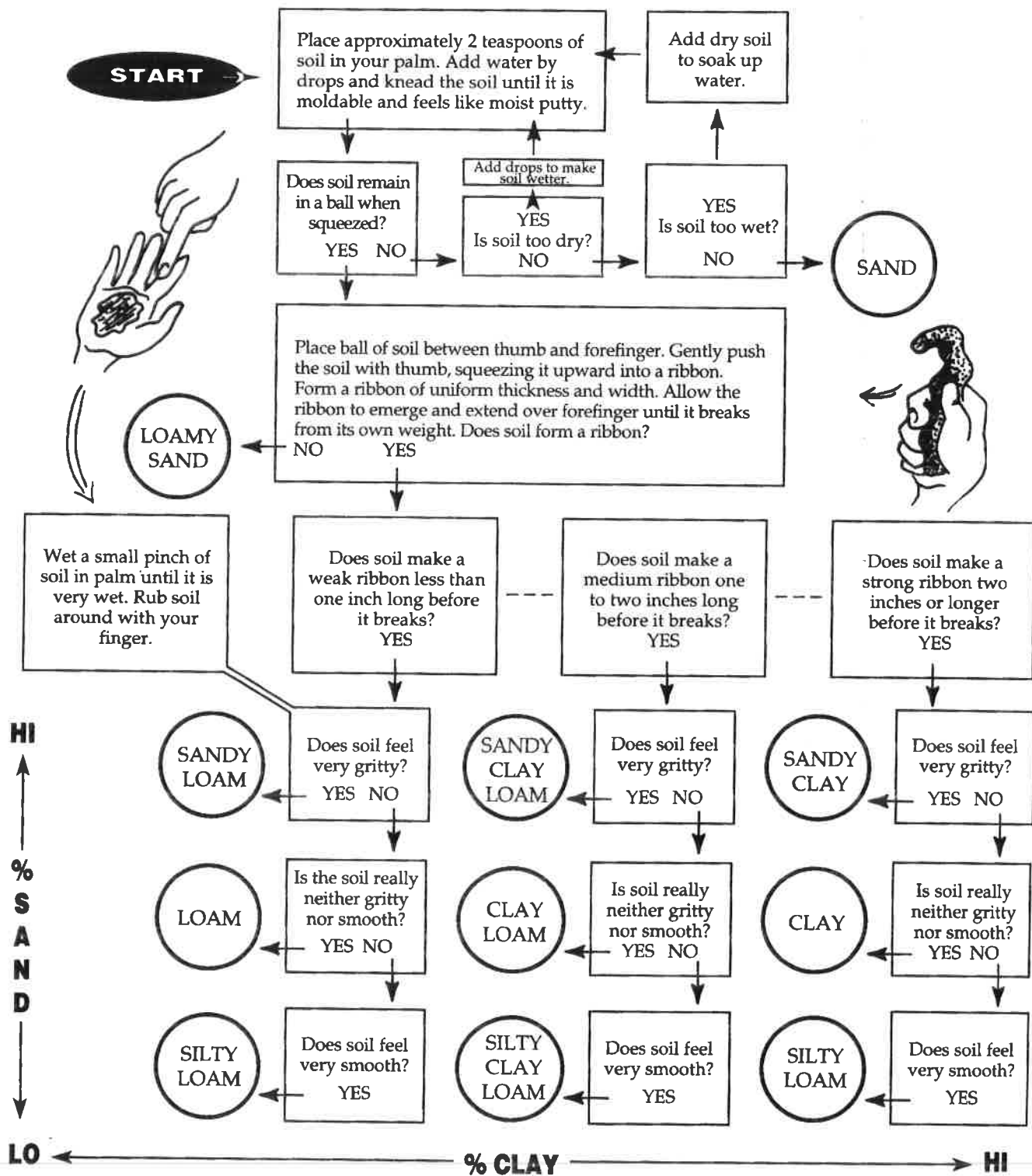


Pennsylvania Envirothon

Soil Texturing Flow Chart

Key to Soil Texture by Feel

Begin at the place marked "Start" and follow the flow chart by answering the questions, until you identify the soil sample.

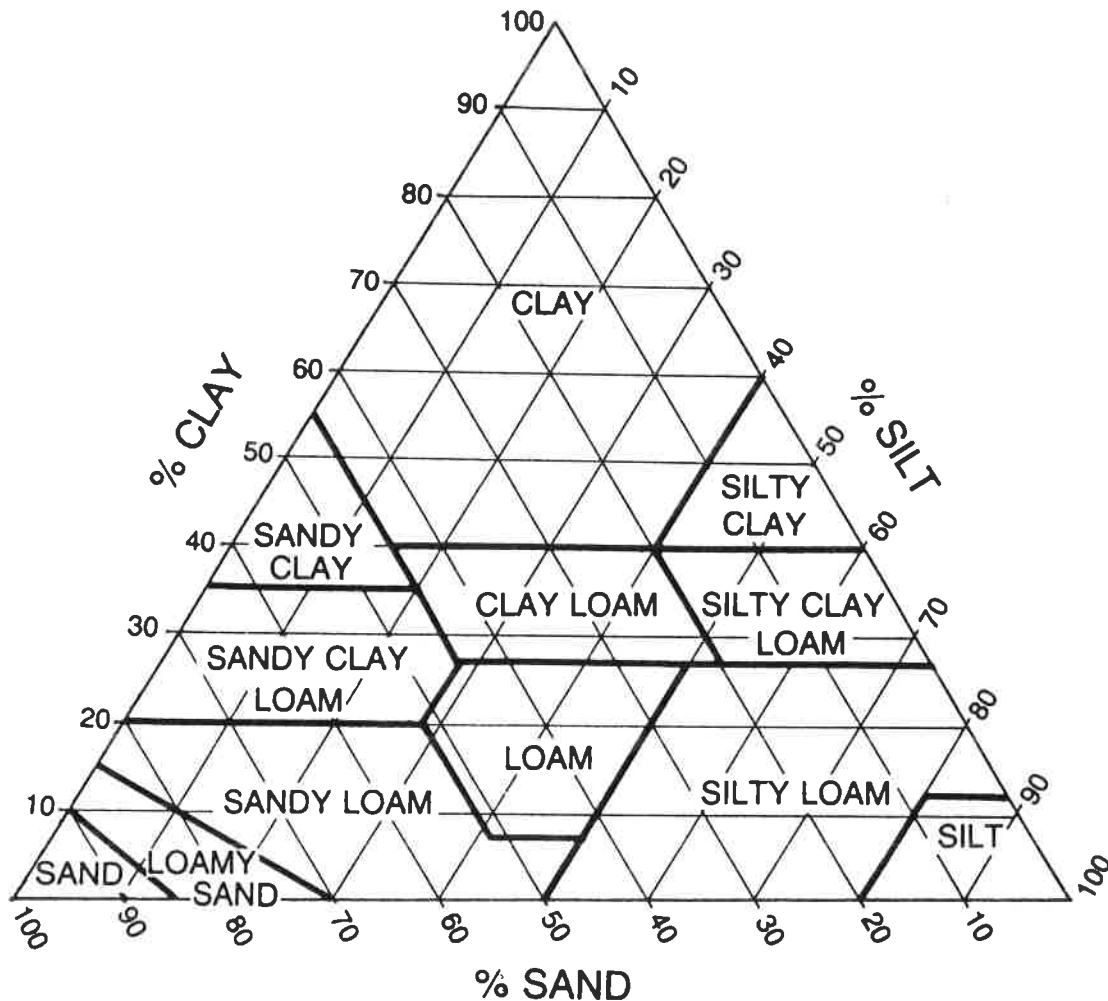


SOIL TEXTURE

Soil texture refers to the sand, silt and clay particles that make up the soil. Soil texture does not change in a soil unless other sand, silt and clay are mixed with it. Soil structure refers to the aggregates of sand, silt and clay that result from the soil forming processes. Soil structure can change as moisture and temperature changes. Structure also changes rapidly when compacted by heavy equipment or foot traffic, but the texture of the soil remains the same.

Soil texture is determined by plotting the percentage of sand, silt and clay on the textural triangle.

Textural Triangle



Texture can also be estimated by using the flow chart on the other side.