

®

What is soil made of?

Soil-net.com

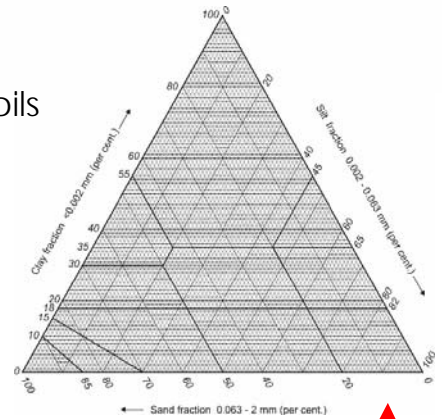
Soil is not just mud!

Sandy soils: These are light, generally free-draining soils but lose nutrients rapidly

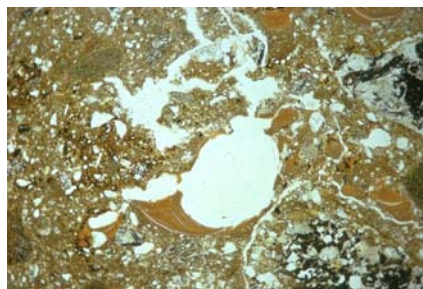
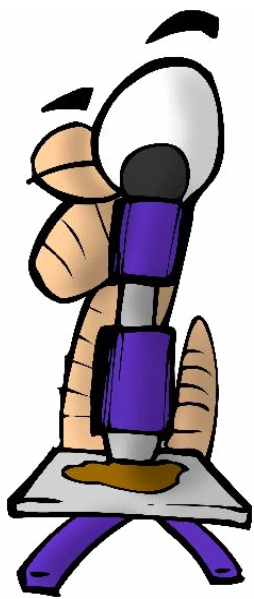
Clayey soils: These are heavy, difficult-to-work soils when wet. They hold on to both water and nutrients much more than sandy soils do

Silty soils: These tend to hold less water and nutrients than clay soils but more than sandy soils do

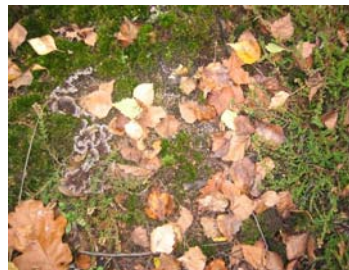
All mineral soils contain sand, silt and clay particles, but in varying proportions. A **standard texture triangle** is used to decide the soil type based on the proportions of the three sizes of these mineral constituents



And there's more...!

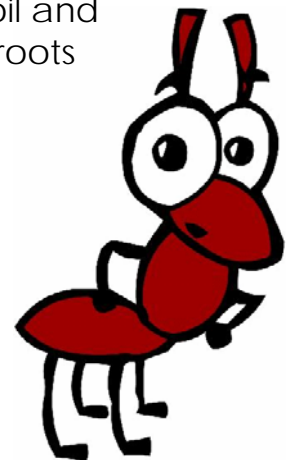


Organic matter: releases nutrients slowly as it rots and improves water holding capacity



Water: clings to soil particles and is taken up by plant roots

Air: fills gaps in soil and allows the plant roots and animals to 'breathe'



Animals: including insects, bacteria and earthworms – these help to break down dead materials

Soil means different things to different people, but we all need to look after it!

Cranfield
UNIVERSITY

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