

METHOD STATEMENT



Determinand:

Determination of soil type by touch testing

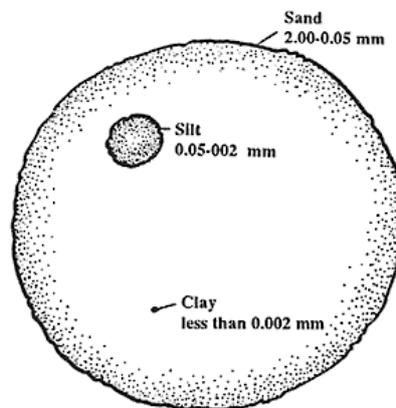
Matrix:

Sample Types: Agricultural soils only

Principle of Method:

Samples are characterised by the touch test to determine the type of soil present. Samples undergo a physical touch test by analyst and follow a flow chart to end with a variant of the three main categories of soil Sand, Clay and Silt.

The inorganic material in soil has come from weathered rocks and is called mineral matter. The largest is sand, and the smallest clay.



The texture of soil is important because it determines soil characteristics that affect plant growth. Three of these are water-holding capacity, permeability (ease of which water and air can pass through the soil) and soil workability (ease with which the soil may be tilled).

Characteristics	Sand	Silt	Clay
Looseness	Good	Fair	Poor
Air space	Good	Fair to good	Poor
Drainage	Good	Fair to good	Poor
Tendency to form clods	Poor	Fair	Good
Ease of working	Good	Fair to good	Poor
Moisture-holding ability	Poor	Fair to good	Good
Fertility	Poor	Fair to good	Fair to good

Sampling and Sample Preparation:

Samples are normally received in sealable plastic bags.

Note: Wet soils are stored at $3 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Interferences

Large stones and twigs should be removed prior to adding water as this will not be representative of the whole sample and will be difficult to handle.

Performance of Method:

N/A

References:

Natural England Technical Information Note TIN037

AHDB Great Soils: Principles of Soil Management

LandIS® (Land Information System)