

Soils

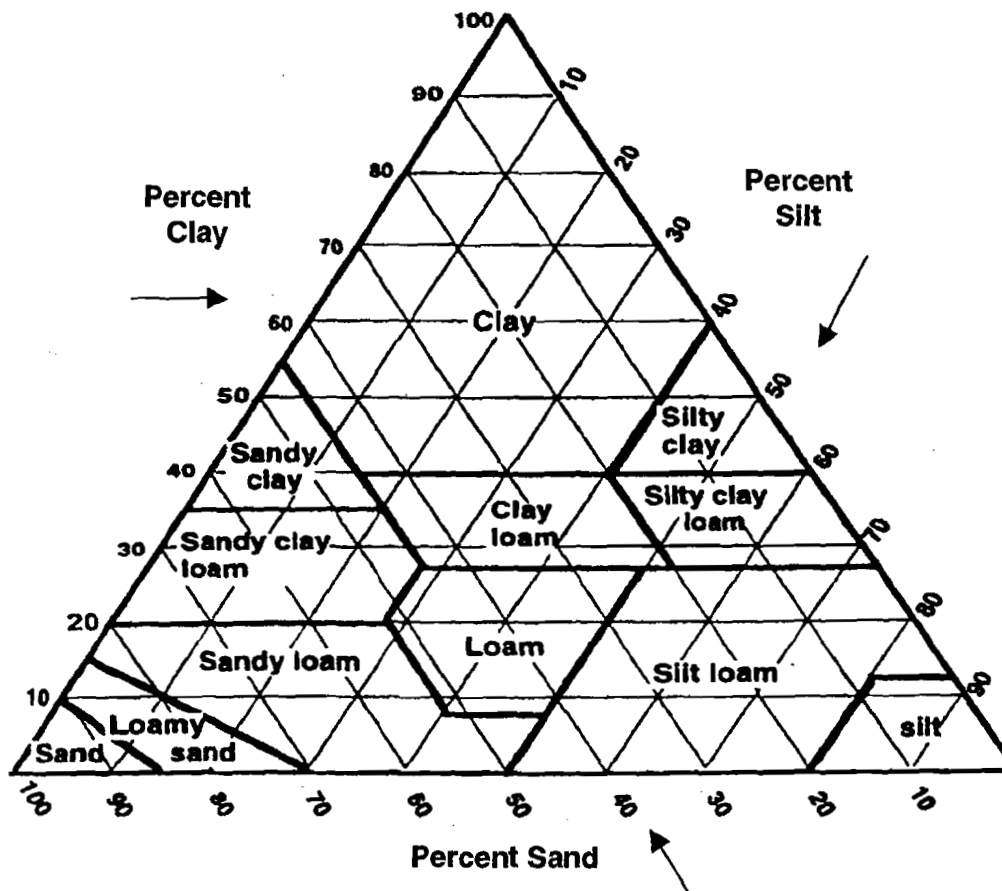


Figure 3-10: The soil texture triangle

Soil Texture

Soil texture describes the size and shape of individual soil particles such as sand, silt, or clay. **Soil texture class** describes the *relative* amounts of sand, silt, or clay in that particular soil. Sandy loam, loamy clay, silty clay loam, etc. are examples of soil classes.

Soil texture has a major influence on the amount of water stored in a soil. It also has a major influence on **soil infiltration rate** (the rate at which water enters the soil profile) and the **permeability** of a soil (the rate at which water moves through the soil).

Soil Structure

Soil structure is the arrangement of soil particles. **Soil particle** refers to any unit that is part of the soil makeup including primary elements (sand, silt, or clay) or secondary aggregated particles.