1. *Begin by selecting a sample of soil slightly smaller than a golf ball and roll it between the palms of your hands. If the soil is too dry to form a ball add five drops of water and attempt to form a ball. Continue adding and rerolling until your soil is either able to form a ball or is sludgy (hint: you should be able to form a ball before the soil is sludgy)*
   1. **The soil sample would not form a ball regardless of the moisture……………….. Sand**
   2. **The soil was able to form a ball …………………………………………………………………… 2**
2. *Hold the moist ball of clay between your thumb and forefinger. Begin squeezing ribbon shape out from between your fingers allowing it to move out over your forefinger.*
   1. **The soil was not able to form a ribbon………………………………………………………... Loamy Sand**
   2. **The soil was able to form a ribbon longer than 1 cm……………………………………. 3**
3. *Continue to extrude a ribbon of soil between your fingers until it breaks under its own weight*
   1. **The soil formed a ribbon less than 2.5 cm then broke………………………………….. 4**
   2. **The soil formed a ribbon longer than 2.5 cm………………………………………………… 5**
4. *Place a sample of soil about the size of your pointer fingernail in the palm of your hand and make a wet mud. Rub the mud between the tips of your fingers.*
   1. **The mud feels primarily gritty………………………………………………………………………. Sandy Loam**
   2. **The mud feels equally gritty and smooth……………………………………………………… Loam**
   3. **The mud feels very smooth………………………………………………………………………….. Silty Loam**
5. Measure the length of the ribbon formed
   1. **The soil formed a ribbon greater than 2.5 cm but less than 5cm long……………. 6**
   2. **The soil formed a ribbon greater than 5 cm long…………………………………………… 7**
6. *Place a sample of soil about the size of your pointer fingernail in the palm of your hand and make a wet mud. Rub the mud between the tips of your fingers.*
   1. **The mud feels primarily gritty………………………………………………………………………. Sandy Clay Loam**
   2. **The mud feels equally gritty and smooth……………………………………………………… Clay Loam**
   3. **The mud feels very smooth………………………………………………………………………….. Silty Clay Loam**
7. *Place a sample of soil about the size of your pointer fingernail in the palm of your hand and make a wet mud. Rub the mud between the tips of your fingers.*
   1. **The mud feels primarily gritty………………………………………………………………………. Sandy Clay**
   2. **The mud feels equally gritty and smooth……………………………………………………… Clay**
   3. **The mud feels very smooth………………………………………………………………………….. Silty Clay**

**Definitions:**

*Clay:* soil particles that are smaller than 0.002mm **2.5cm**

*Silt:* soil particles that are between 0.002mm and 0.05mm

*Sand:* soil particles that are between 0.05mm and 2.0mm

*Loam:* an even mixture of sand, silt, and clay **5.0 cm**