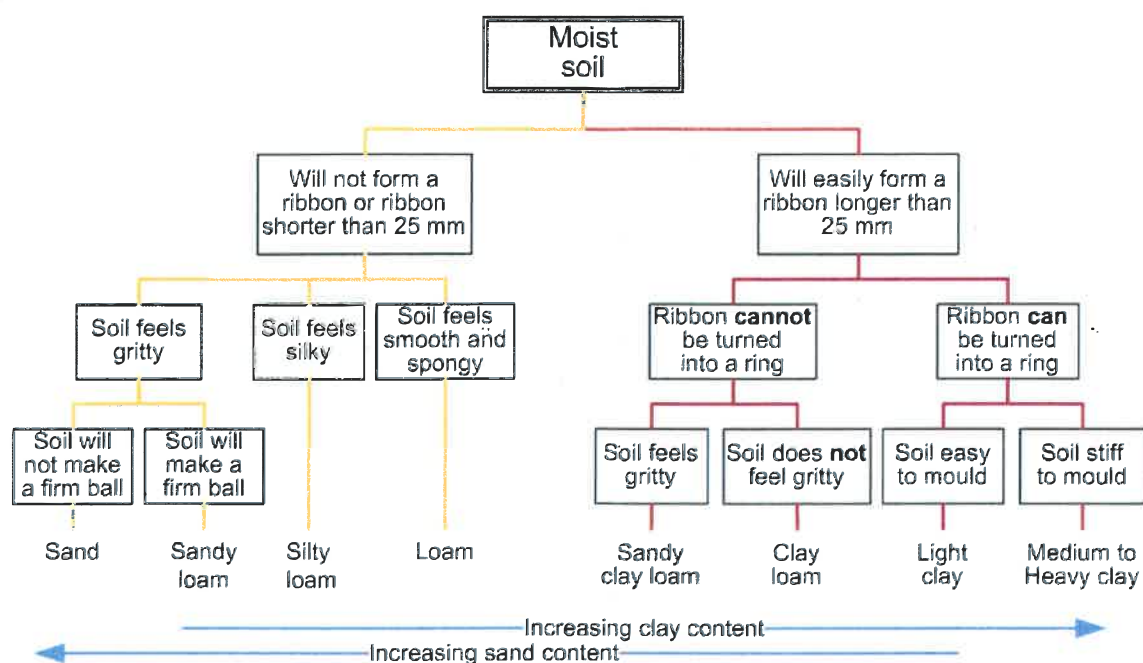


Assessing field texture



Field texture	Description	Approximate clay content
Sand	Nil to slight coherence. Ribbon of 0 – 15 mm.	Less than 10%
Sandy loam	Coherent but very sandy to touch. Ribbon of 15 – 25 mm.	10 – 20%
Loam	Coherent, spongy and greasy feel with no obvious sandiness or silkiness. Ribbon of about 25 mm.	About 25%
Silt loam	Coherent, very smooth to often silky when manipulated. Ribbon of about 25 mm.	About 25% and with silt 25% or more
Sandy clay loam	Strongly coherent, sandy to touch with medium size sand grains visible in finer matrix. Ribbon of 25 – 40 mm.	20 – 30%
Clay loam	Coherent plastic bolus. Smooth to touch with no obvious sand grains. Ribbon of 50 – 75 mm.	30 – 35%
Light clay	Plastic bolus. Smooth to touch with slight resistance to shear. Ribbon of 50 – 75 mm.	35 – 40%
Medium to heavy clay	Plastic bolus. Smooth to touch. Feels like normal to stiff plasticine. Moderate to firm resistance to shear. Ribbon of 75 mm or more.	40% or more