

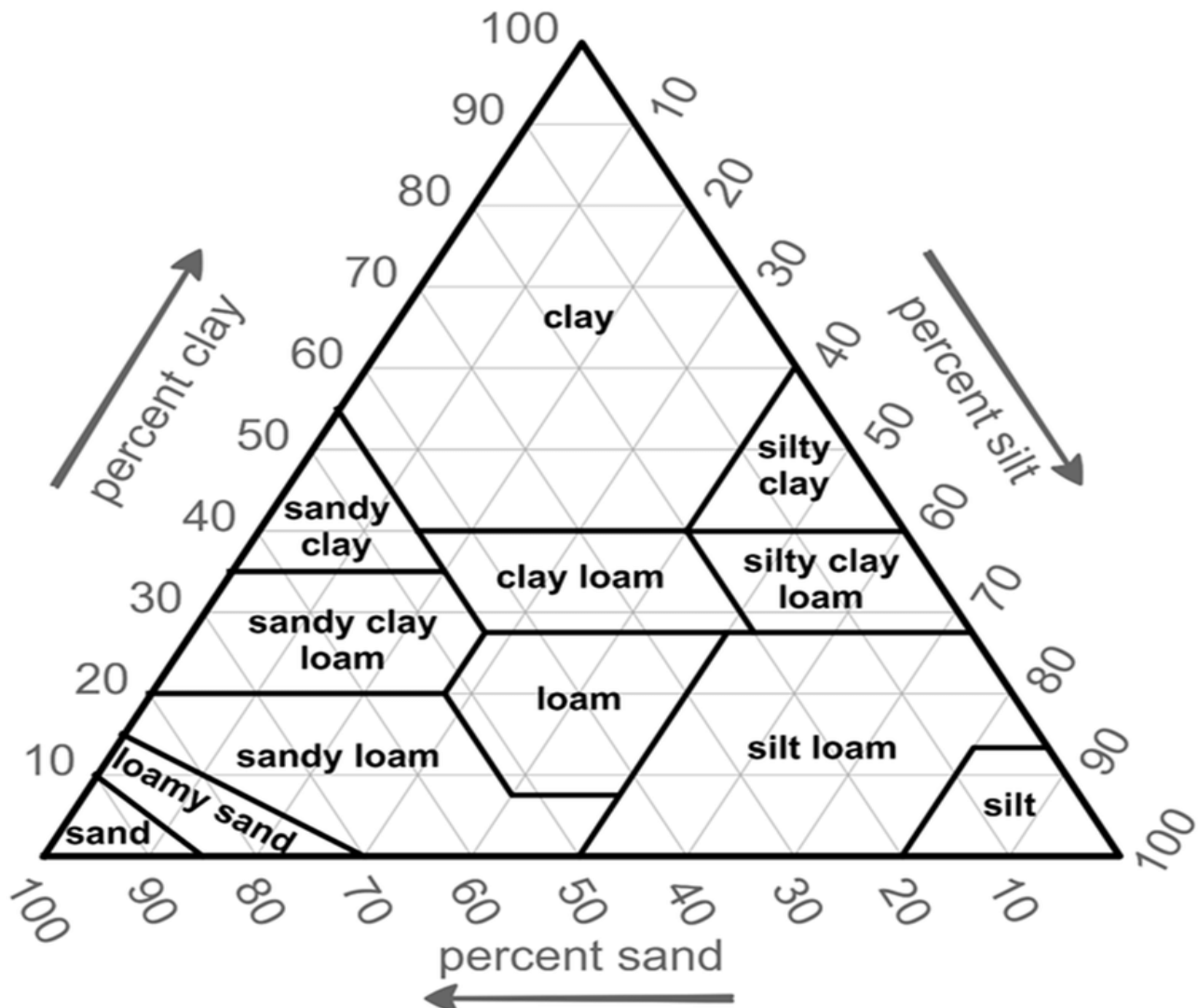


Soil Identification

The soil texture triangle helps identify the type of soil you have by triangulating the percentage of each soil type in your sample. The best soil types are those closest to the middle. Soil types located close to the corners are less ideal to farmers and gardeners.

Instructions:

1. Identify the percent clay in your sample. Find that number on the left side of the triangle and draw a straight line across to the silt side.
2. Identify the percent of silt in your sample. Find that number on the right side of the triangle. Trace the diagonal line down to the sand side.
3. Identify the percent of sand in your sample. Find that number on the bottom side of the triangle. Trace the horizontal line up to the clay side of the triangle.
4. Locate the point where all three lines cross. In which soil type section is this point located? That is the name of your soil sample.

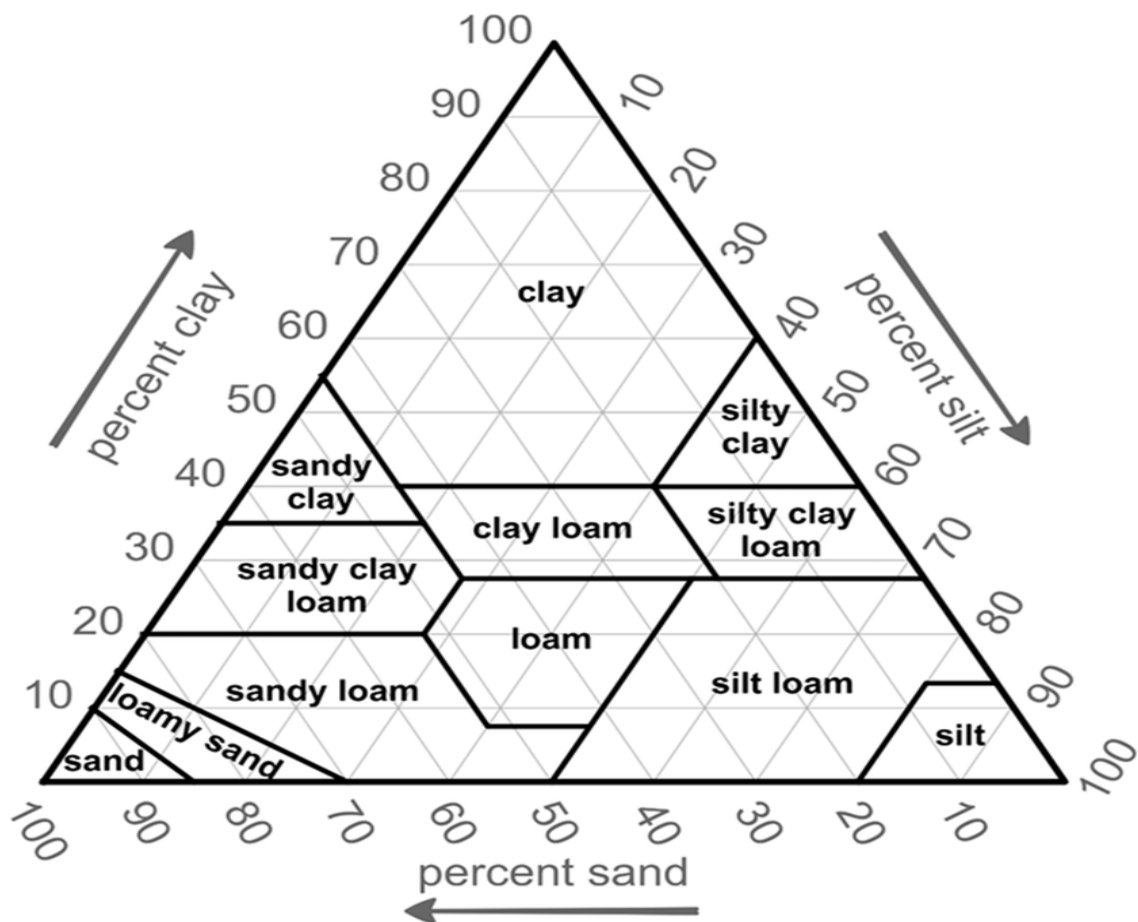


Let's try a few. Fill in the blanks.

% of Clay	% of Silt	% of Sand	Soil Type
20	40	40	loam
	30	20	
20	60		
30	50	20	
30		60	
10	70		

Now, determine your soil type using the Soil Texture Triangle. Plot your points on the triangle below.

% of Clay	% of Silt	% of Sand	Soil Type



EXTEND: What type of plants grow best in your soil type? Why?
