### **UNDERSTANDING YOUR SOIL**

Source: www.prairienursery.com/resources-guides/choosing-plants-for-your-location

Choosing plants, or seed mixes, that are compatible with your soil can be important to their best success. Every native plant has a range of soil types and conditions in which it will naturally flourish. Some plants thrive in a wide range of conditions, but others have more specific soil needs.

#### **BASIC SOIL TYPES**

Soils can be divided into three basic types: sands, loams, and clays. There is variation within these groups, but these basic types offer a good guide for describing where a plant will grow best.

#### Clay Soil

Clay soils are commonly known as "heavy" soils." They consist of very small, tightly-packed soil particles, and tend to be dense and hard to work. Clay soils absorb water more slowly and retain it for a longer period. When wet, the soil becomes slick and will form sticky clumps. When it dries out, clay soil becomes hard and solid.

#### Loam Soil

Loam soils are intermediate between sands and clays. Loam soils are quite fertile, but instead of high clay content they have roughly equal proportions of sand, silt and clay. This is ideal because it holds plenty of moisture but also drains well enough for sufficient air to reach the roots. Most plants will thrive in loam soils.

#### Sandy Soil

Sandy Soils, referred to as "light soils," contain large-sized soil particles that are loose and easy to work. They tend to be very well aerated, very fast-draining, and do not contain much in the way of soil nutrients.

Follow the steps on the back side of this page to determine your soil type!

#### **SOIL MOISTURE**

#### **Dry Soils**

Extremely well-drained, dry soils rarely have standing water, and rainfall drains rapidly through them. Many native plants will thrive in dry soils without any soil amendment or irrigation.

#### Medium Soils

Medium soils (mesic soils) sometimes experience standing water, but only for short periods, such as after a heavy rain. These are typically loamy and clay-based soils with good drainage.

#### **Moist Soils**

Moist soils typically occur in low-lying areas and have moist subsoil throughout the growing season. They may experience periods of standing water during dormant seasons, as well as after significant rainfall events during the summer.

#### Wet Soils

Wet soils stay damp nearly year-round, and moisture is generally available within one foot of the soil surface, even in mid-summer. Wet soils are often flooded in spring. Only the most moisture tolerant plants will thrive in wet soils.





## **Soil Test** Glass Jar



# Follow these steps













Add soil to the jar

Add detergent & fill jar with water

Replace lid & shake vigorously for 3 min

After about 1-2 minutes mark sand

After 1 hour mark silt

How to use the soil triangle The intersection is your type! Trace the line for the % sand Trace the line for the % silt Trace the line for the % clay After 24 hours mark clay Percent Clay Clay 30 7115 Juan Of

Trace the lines this direction

Clay

90 Sand Clay 80 Loam Sandy Clay Loam 60 50 40 Percent Sand Loam Clay Loam 30 10

Find more soil info @ New-Blooms.com

% Sand = Sand / Total Dirl

**% Clαy** = Clay / Total Dirt

% Silt = Silt /

Total Dirt

What's your soil type? New Blooms has #SiltLoam 🧿 🗗 🎯