

Sand, Silt and Clay

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difficult to work, is compacted or may be a subsoil.

In summary many chemical and physical properties of a soil can be assessed in rough terms from a knowledge of a particle size analysis or the textural class name. For example in comparing a clay to a sandy loam it can be expected that

- 1) the clay will be relatively more fertile,
- 2) the clay will have greater nutrient holding capacity for potassium, calcium and magnesium,
- 3) the clay will have more organic matter,
- 4) the clay will hold more plant available water and be less droughty,
- 5) the clay will have smaller pores resulting in slower air and water movement within the soil, and
- 6) the clay will have greater stickiness, ability to be retain a shape when moulded and be harder when dry.

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...who have joined since August of 1990.

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