

## The Squeeze Test

To determine your soil type, use a shovel and dig a small sample of your soil from within the first 8 inches of depth of soil.

Hold it in your hand and start adding water to the sample. Play with it.

How much grit does it have? The presence or absence of grit will be an indication of texture. Remember, you are feeling and looking for soil particle size. Are you able to form a firm ball? Your ability to form a strong or weak ball will also indicate texture. Finally, try to pinch out a ribbon between your thumb and index finger. The length of the ribbon will also indicate your soil texture.

### **Sandy Soil**

If your soil feels gritty and breaks apart immediately, the soil is predominately sand. When pressed into a ball, sandy soil will form a cast but barely holds together, and will form a short ribbon, if any.

### **Loamy Soil**

If the soil feels smooth, and holds its shape for a short time before breaking apart, it is mostly loam. A loam soil will form a ball easily and will make a ribbon of approximately one inch or more. A handful of loam forms a pliable ball that breaks apart with a gentle touch.

### **Clay Soil**

When pressed into a ball, clay soil will hold together well and not crumble when dropped.