



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

M.S.SWAMINATHAN
SCHOOL OF
AGRICULTURE

ASAC 1101 (2-1-0)

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOIL SCIENCE

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PRACTICAL MANUAL



Shaping Lives... Empowering Communities...

MSSSoA

EX No.7	DETERMINATION OF SOIL TEXTURE BY FEEL METHOD
Date:	

Aim: To predict the soil texture in the field level.

Procedure :

Laboratory analyses of soil texture are costly and take time, while feeling soil texture by hand is quick, free, and, with practice, highly accurate. The two basic steps in the texture by feel method are as following.

Step 1: Ball squeeze test – Squeeze a moistened ball of soil in the hand.

- a) Coarse textures (sand or sandy loam) soils break with slight pressure
- b) Sandy loams and silt loams stay together but change shape easily.
- c) Fine textured (clayey or clayey loam) soils resist breaking.

Step 2: Ribbon test – Squeeze a moistened ball of soil out between thumb and fingers.

- a) Sandy or sandy soils won't ribbon
- b) Loam, silt, silty clay loam or clay loam soil ribbons less than 1 inch (2.5cm)
- c) Sandy clay loam, silty clay loam or clay loam ribbons 1 to 2 inches
- d) Sandy clay, silty clay, or clay soil ribbons more than 2 inches

Note: A soil with as little as 20% clay may behave as a heavy clayey soil. A soil needs 45% to over 60% sand to behave as a sandy soil.

Result:

Texture of selected soil in the field level is

