Start

1. Place approximately one tablespoon of soil in your palm. Add water a drop at a time and knead the soil until it feels like moist putty.
2. Does soil remain in a ball when squeezed?
3. If No, is the soil too dry? If the answer is yes return to 1.
    a. If no, is soil too wet? If still no you have sand.
    b. If yes, add dry soil to soak up water and return to number 1.
4. If Yes, place the ball of soil between thumb and forefinger, gently pushing soil with the thumb, working it upward into a ribbon. Form a ribbon of uniform thickness and width. Allow the ribbon to emerge and extend over the forefinger, breaking from its own weight.
5. Does soil form a ribbon?
    a. If no, you have loamy sand.
6. If yes, does soil make a weak ribbon less than 1 inch long before breaking?
    a. If no, does soil make a medium ribbon less than 1 inch to 2 inches long before breaking?
        i. If no, does soil make a strong ribbon 2 inches or longer before breaking?
            1. If Yes does soil feel very gritty? If yes it would be a sandy clay soil.
                a. If no, does soil feel very smooth? If yes, it is silty clay.
                    i. If no, does soil feel neither very gritty nor very smooth? Then the soil is clay.
    b. If yes, does the soil feel very gritty? If yes again then you have sandy clay loam.
        i. If no, does soil feel very smooth? If yes, then you have silty clay loam.
        ii. If it doesn't feel smooth but feels neither very gritty nor very smooth, then you have clay loam.
    c. If yes, does the soil feel very gritty? Then you have sandy loam.
        i. If no, does soil feel very smooth? If yes you have silt or silt loam.
    d. If no, does soil feel neither very gritty nor very smooth? If yes, then you have loam.