|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PART A**  What **type** of soil do you have? (What is its colour, and **texture**?) |  | **** |  | **** |  | **** |  | **** |  | **** |
| **What is the colour of your soil?** | Very pale brown or grey |  | Greyish brown or yellowish brown |  | Reddish Brown |  | Brown |  | Very dark brown or black |  |
| **What texture does your soil have?**  Take some soil in your hand and try to roll it into a ball. Dip your thumb into some water and rub the ball of soil. How does it feel?  ***See advice sheet for an extra soil texture test to help you decide.*** | Sandy  (mostly sand)  *Feels very gritty* |  | Sandy Loam  or Clay Loam  (e.g. 50% sand or 50% clay)  *Feels quite gritty or feels quite sticky* |  | Clay  (mostly clay)  *Feels very sticky* |  | Silt Loam  (mostly silt)  *Feels smooth but slightly grainy* |  | Loam  (fairly even mix of all sand, silt and clay)  *Feels slightly gritty, quite smooth and a bit stick*y |  |



**Assess your Soil**

Use the table below to give your soil sample a score from 1 – 5, then add up your total score at the bottom to find out how healthy your soil is.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PART B**  How **healthy** is your soil? | **1** | **** | **2** | **** | **3** | **** | **4** | **** | **5** | **** |
| **1. How does the soil smell?** | Strong ammonia smell |  | Sour smell |  | Little smell |  | No smell |  | Fresh possibly sweet smell |  |
| **2. Are there living organisms visible in the soil?** | No living organism evident |  | A few living organisms evident |  | Some living organisms evident |  | A lot of living organisms evident |  | High number of living organisms evident |  |
| **3. How much organic matter is present in the soil?** | No dead leaves and plant matter present |  | A few dead leaves and decaying plant matter evident |  | Some dead leaves and decaying plant matter evident |  | A lot of dead leaves and plant matter evident |  | High no. of dead leaves and plant matter evident |  |
| **4. How good is the soil structure? (Lumps of soil particles are known as *aggregates*)** | 70%+ large aggregates |  | 50-70% large aggregates, some medium and small |  | 30-50% large aggregates, some medium and small |  | 10-30% large aggregates, mostly medium and small |  | 0-10% large aggregates, mostly very small |  |
| **Add up your score for questions 1-4**  **Very healthy = 17 – 20, Healthy 13 – 16, Adequate 9-12, Poor = 5 – 8, Very poor 1 - 4 TOTAL SCORE** | | | | | | | |  | | |

