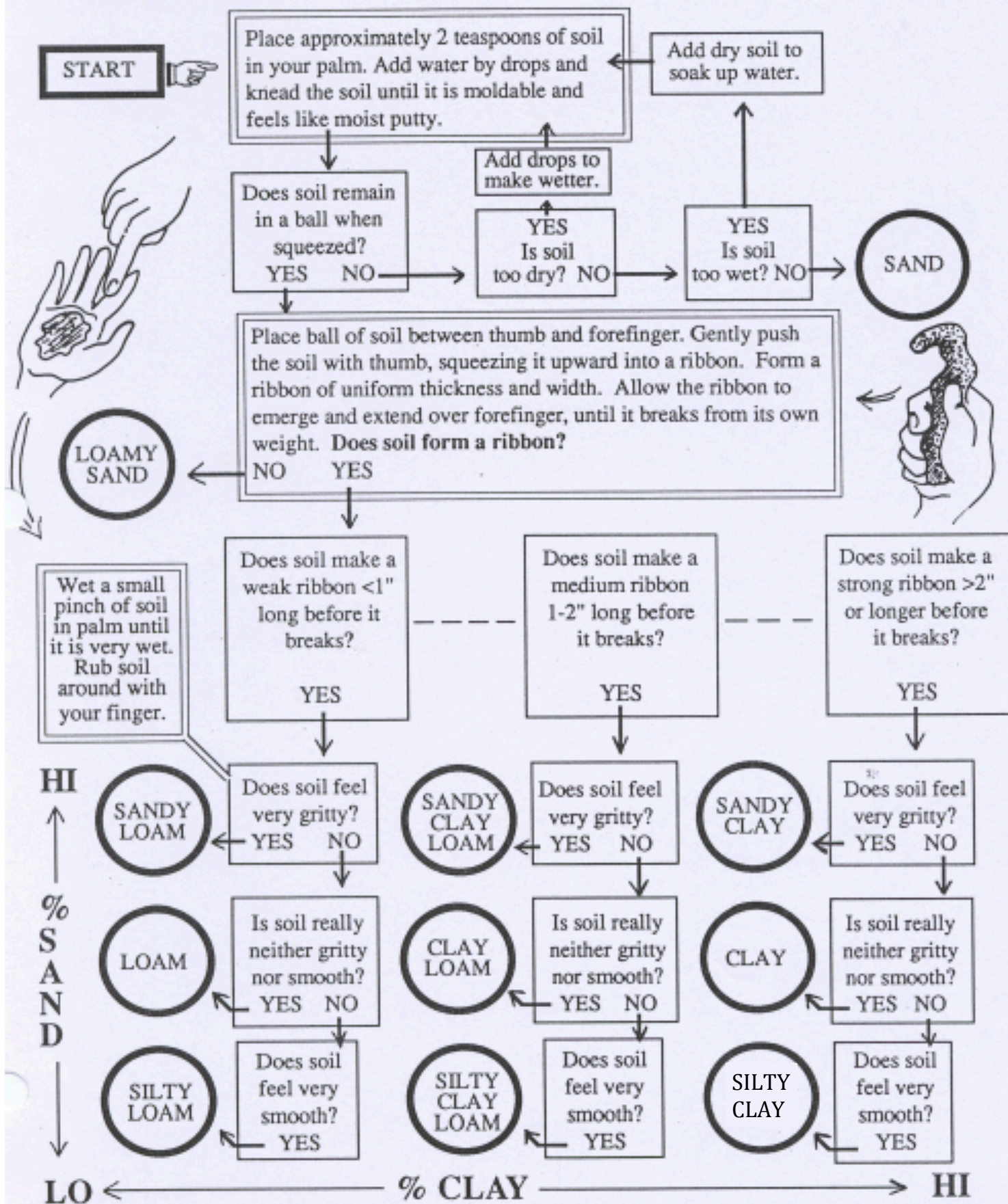


KEY TO SOIL TEXTURE BY FEEL

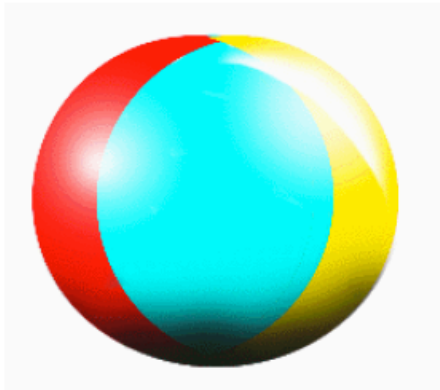
[Adapted from flow chart by Steve Thien, 1979, source unknown.]

Begin at the place marked "Start" and follow the flow chart by answering the questions, until you identify the soil sample.



Relative Size Comparison of Soil Particles

beachball



Sand
(feels gritty)

(2.00 - 0.05 mm, USDA)
(2.00 - 0.02 mm, ISSS)

frisbee



Silt
(feels floury)

(0.05 - 0.002 mm, USDA)
(0.02 - 0.002 mm, ISSS)

dime



Clay
(feels sticky)
(< 0.002 mm, USDA)
(< 0.002 mm, ISSS)

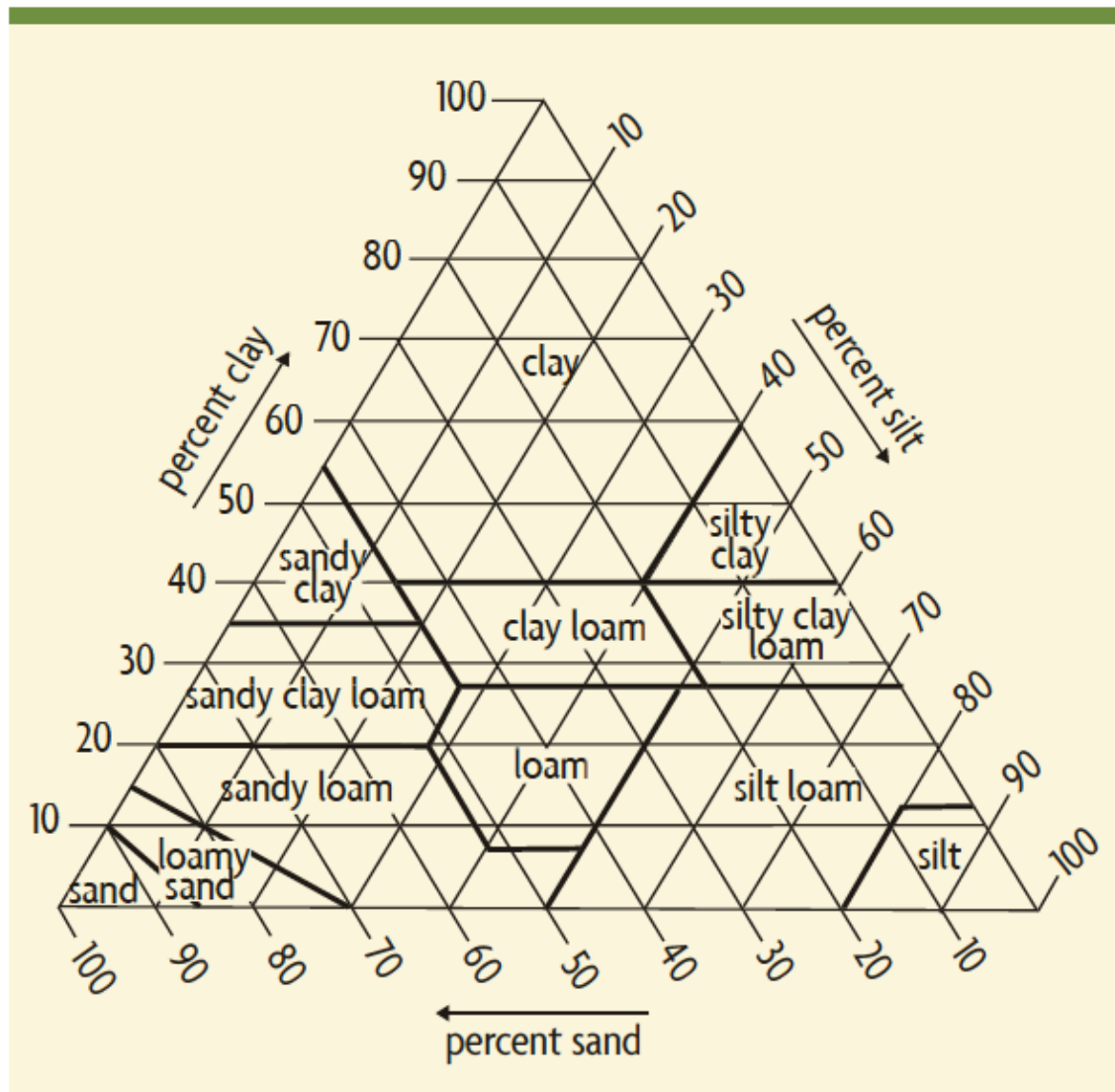


Figure 5.2. The percentages of sand, silt, and clay in the soil textural classes. From USDA-NRCS.