

SOIL GLOSSARY

Texture: the feel, appearance or consistency of the substance.

Structure: the relationship between the parts or elements that make up the substance.

Density: how compact the substance is.

Temperature: the amount of heat present in the substance.

Colour: the appearance of the substance as it reflects light.

Consistency: the way in which the substance holds together.

Porosity: the spaces between which liquid or air passes.

Particles: a minute (very small) portion of matter.

Granular: consists of small grains or particles.

Sand: A loose granular substance, typically pale yellowish brown.

Silt: fine sand or clay.

Clay: a stiff, sticky fine-grained earth.

Organic layer (known as the humus layer): a thick layer of plant remains such as leaves and twigs.

Topsoil: A thin layer (5 to 10 inches thick) composed of organic matter and minerals. This layer is the primary layer where plants and organisms live.