



# Summit Schoolyard Sunlight and Soil Mixture Form

## Determine growing conditions

In this step your task is to determine the three growing conditions in the planting area. Growing conditions include sunlight, soil texture and soil moisture. Completing this section should help you pick plants that will grow well in the conditions of your site. Go to your site and follow the directions for each growing condition.

### Sunlight

Place an X in the box that best describes the sunlight on your site. If it is not obvious, figure out a method to measure the light throughout the day. Then place an X in the correct box.

- Full sun* means the site is in direct sunlight for at least six hours a day.
- Partial sun* means the site receives three to six hours of sunlight.
- Shade* means the site receives less than three hours of direct sun.

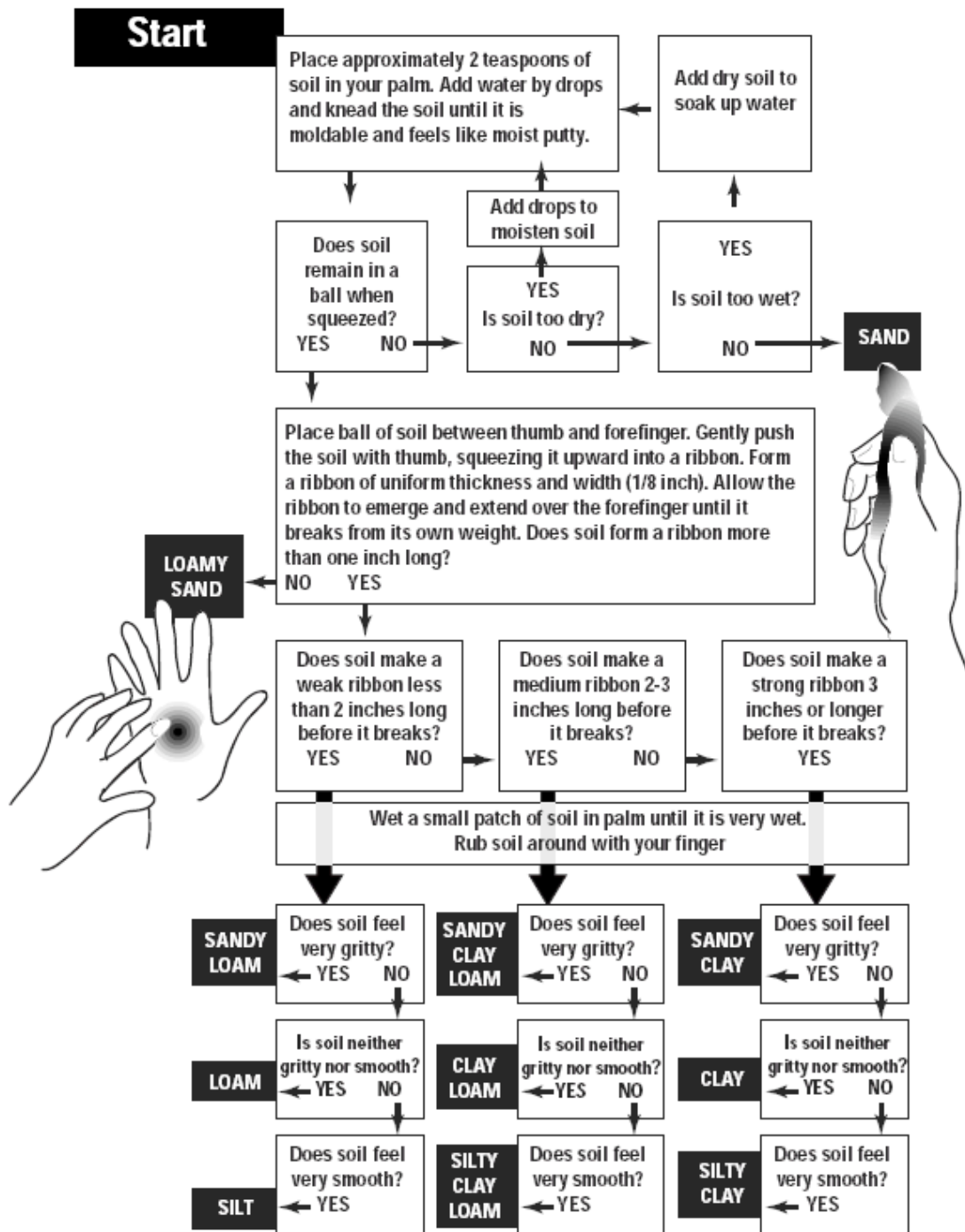
### Moisture

In this step you will decide if the soil is *dry, wet or mesic (average moisture)*. Dig a hole 8" deep. Take a handful of soil from the bottom of the hole. Read the descriptions below and check the box that best describes the soil moisture of the sample.

- Dry soil (very well drained):** Soil does not feel wet. After rainstorms puddles don't remain for more than a few hours. In many cases dry soils are sandy. Dry soils are common on hillsides, especially those that face south.
- Mesic soil (medium drainage):** This is average soil moisture—not dry and not wet. Soil may feel cool and damp but not soggy. Mesic soil moisture can be found in many different areas.
- Wet soil (poorly drained):** The soil is wet and soggy. After rainstorms puddles remain for several days or weeks. In many cases wet soils have a high amount of clay. Wet soils are usually found in low-lying, flat areas.



# Soil Texture Chart



*Adapted with permission from Environmental Concerns, Inc.*

**Soil texture**

In this part, determine the soil texture. Follow the directions on the soil texture chart on the next page. Place an X in the box that best describes the soil texture.

- |                                     |                                     |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand       | <input type="checkbox"/> Clay loam  | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy sand      | <input type="checkbox"/> Silty clay loam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy loam | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy clay | <input type="checkbox"/> Loam            | <input type="checkbox"/> Clay            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silt loam  | <input type="checkbox"/> Silty clay | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy clay loam |  |

**Summary of growing conditions**

Sunlight \_\_\_\_\_

Moisture \_\_\_\_\_

Soil texture \_\_\_\_\_