

# Earthworm Chart

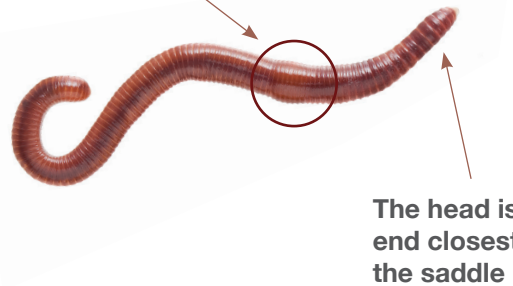


0 Is your earthworm adult or immature?

2 Immature earthworms do not have a saddle



Adult earthworms have a thickened area, called the saddle, part of the way along their body



## Earthworm types

6 Earthworms can be divided into three groups according to their lifestyle, and they affect the soil in different ways. The photographs below are of adult earthworms.

### Deep-living earthworms

- more than 15cm long
- reddish-brown in colour (usually with a dark head and paler tail)
- pull leaves down into their deep vertical burrows, locking carbon into the soil



### Surface-feeding earthworms

- less than 15cm long
- reddish-brown in colour (usually a similar colour along the whole body)
- live on or near the surface of the soil and eat dead leaves, recycling them into the soil



### Soil-feeding earthworms

- pale in colour
- usually pink, but may be blue-ish or green-ish
- live and feed in the top 20cm of soil – their burrows help mix air into the soil

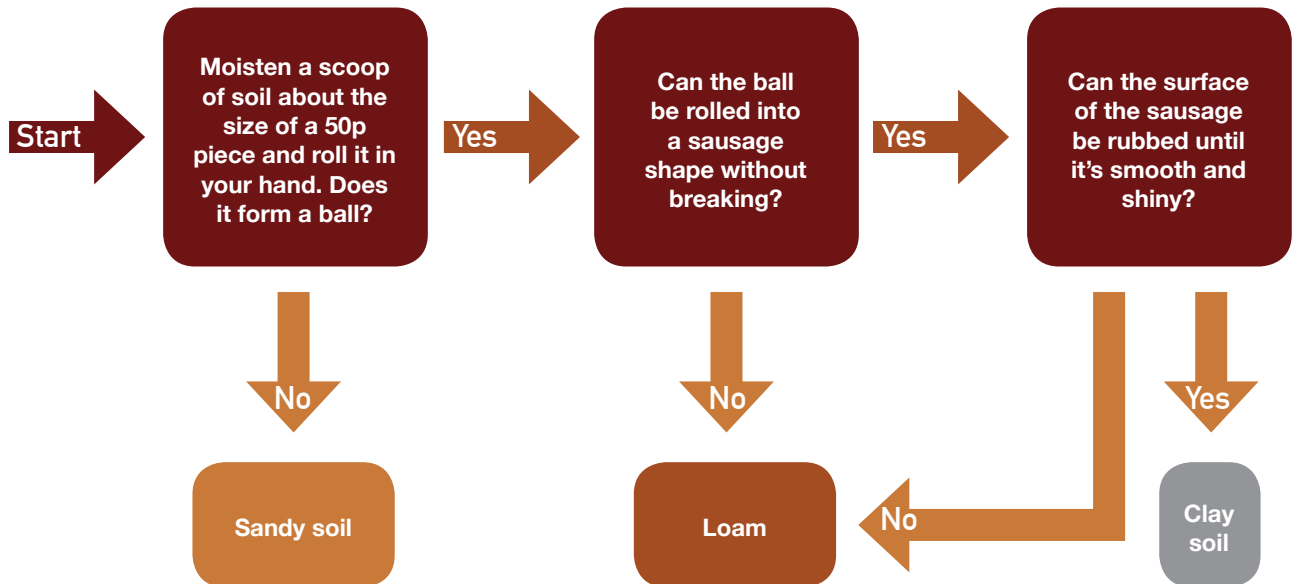


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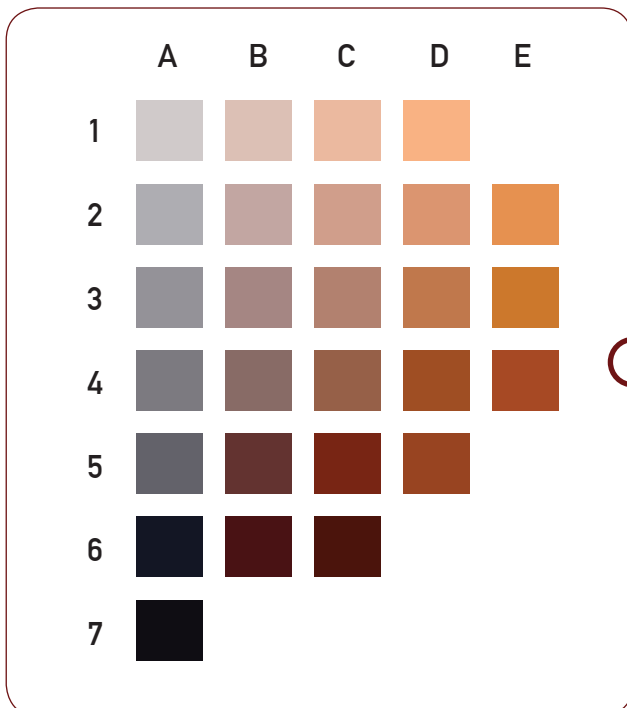
# Soil Chart

## Soil texture flow diagram

Soil contains particles of different sizes and their proportions determine the texture of the soil. Sandy soils drain water well but have fewer nutrients. Clay soils stick together, are poorly drained but contain nutrients. Loams are a balanced mix of large and small particles, good for growing plants.



## Soil colour chart



Compare your soil to each colour on the chart. Choose which best matches your soil eg C3.

Soil colour is composed of two properties: **hue and shade**.

**Hue** is found on the **letter scale** along the top of the soil colour chart and reflects the mineral composition of the soil. For example, soils with iron minerals will be redder in hue.

**Shade** is on the **number scale**, and assesses how much organic carbon the soil contains. The right mixture of soil minerals and organic carbon are needed for healthy soils.