

# Soil – A Contractors Perspective

Presented by Jared Pyka



July 21, 2015

# Agenda

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My Background

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What is Soil

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How do we use this on a jobsite

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Examples and Past Experience

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Summary



# My background

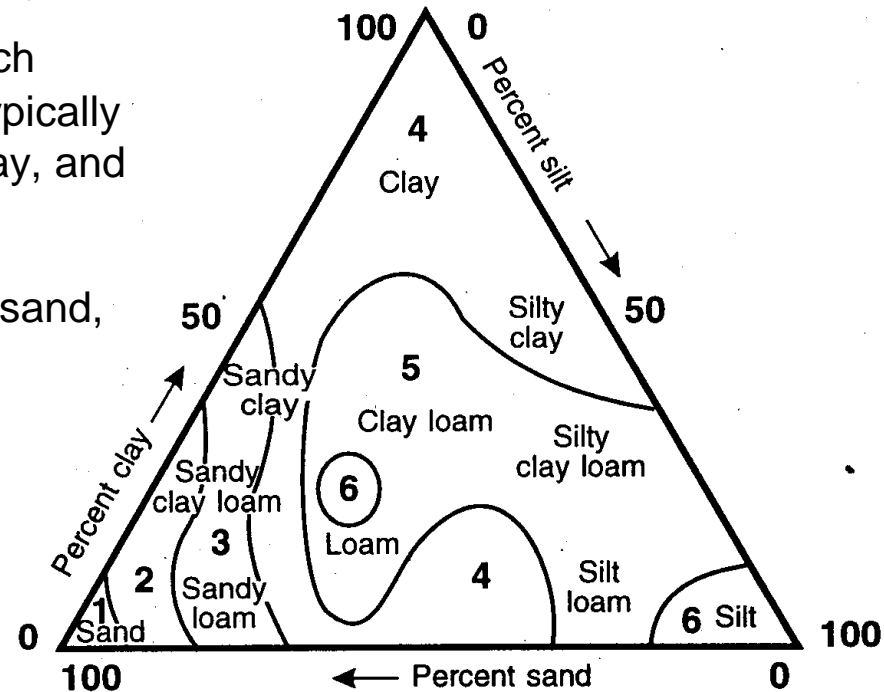
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- My introduction to the industry
- TerraCare LLC
- Joss Growers
- Native Texas Nursery
- Texas Tech
- ValleyCrest Landscape Development, Inc.



# What is soil?

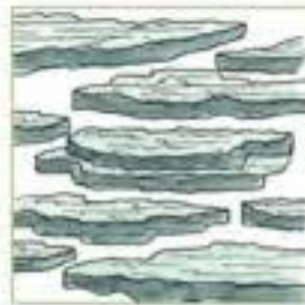
- **Definition** - The upper layer of earth in which plants grow, a black or dark brown material typically consisting of a mixture of organic remains, clay, and rock particles. - Google
- **Structure** – The way individual particles of sand, silt, and clay are assembled
- **Texture** – % Sand, Silt, Clay
- **What is Ideal Soil?**



HEALTHY SOIL



SANDY SOIL



COMPACTED SOIL

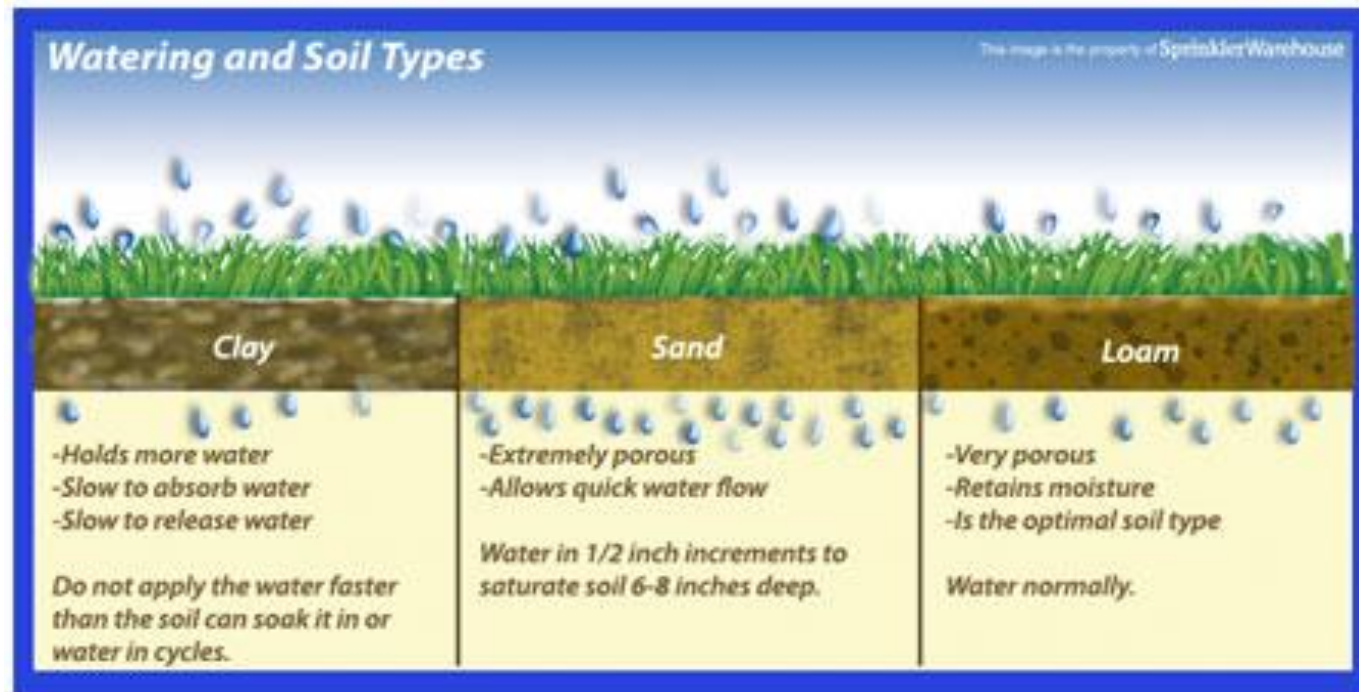
Photo courtesy: [landscapeforlife.org](http://landscapeforlife.org)



# How does this apply to water conservation?

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- Infiltration
- Field Capacity
- Water Retention
- How Does Water Act in Soil?



# How do we use this information on a jobsite?

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- Existing Conditions
- Desired Conditions
- Import New or Amend Existing?



# Project Examples: Imported Soil

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- Whole Site Has Been Excavated/Demolished
- Roof Top/Container Plantings
- Unique Plantings
- Structural Soil



# Project Examples: Amended Soil

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- Areas Outside Limits of Building Construction
- Large Areas Undisturbed or Slightly Disturbed





# Green Roof Considerations

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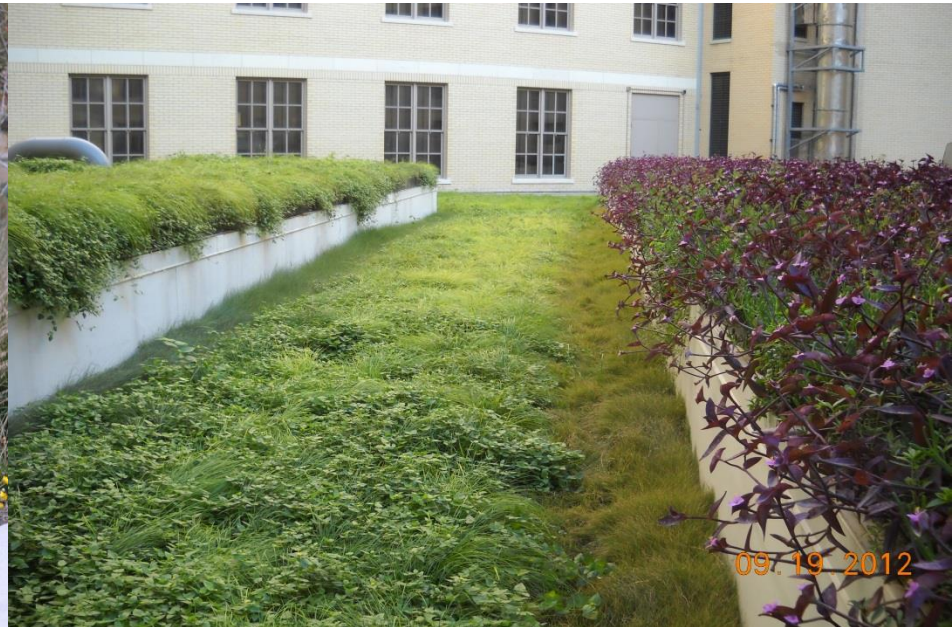
- Dry Weight
- Saturated Weight
- Drainage



# Summary

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- Good Soil – A soil that has proper characteristics for the desired site conditions and plant types that will conserve water.
- The Goal – Strive to create desired structure and texture for the plant type and application using the most cost effective methods.
- The goal can be achieved over time



# Questions?

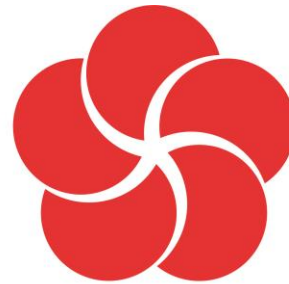
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Landscape Development

