



**PRACTICAL INTERPRETATION CHART FOR SOIL MOISTURE**

Soil Moisture Remaining	Feel or Appearance of Soils			
	Very Light Texture	Light Texture	Medium Texture	Heavy and Very Heavy Texture
<b>0%</b>	Dry, loose, single-grained, flows through fingers	Dry, loose, flows through fingers	Powdery, dry, sometimes slightly crusted but easily breaks down into powdery condition	
<b>50% or less</b>	Still appears to be dry; will not form a ball <sup>1</sup> with pressure	Still appears to be dry; will not form a ball <sup>1</sup>	Somewhat crumbly, but will not hold together under pressure	Somewhat pliable, will ball <sup>1</sup> under pressure
<b>50 to 75%</b>	Same as very light texture with 50% or less moisture	Tends to ball <sup>1</sup> under pressure but seldom will hold together	Forms a ball <sup>1</sup> somewhat plastic; will sometimes slick slightly with pressure	Forms a ball <sup>1</sup> ; will form ribbon between fingers
<b>75% to field capacity</b>	Tends to stick together slightly, sometimes forms a very weak ball <sup>1</sup> under pressure	Forms a weak ball <sup>1</sup> ; breaks easily, will not slick	Forms a ball <sup>1</sup> and is very pliable; slicks readily if relatively high in clay	Easily ribbons between fingers; has a slick feel.
<b>100% (field capacity)</b>	When squeezed, no free water appears on soil, but wet outline of ball is left on hand	Same as very light Texture	Same as very light texture	Same as very light texture
<b>Above field capacity</b>	Free water appears when soil is bounced in hand	Free water will be released with kneading	Can squeeze out free water	Puddles and free water forms on surface

<sup>1</sup> Ball is formed by squeezing a handful of soil very firmly with fingers.

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