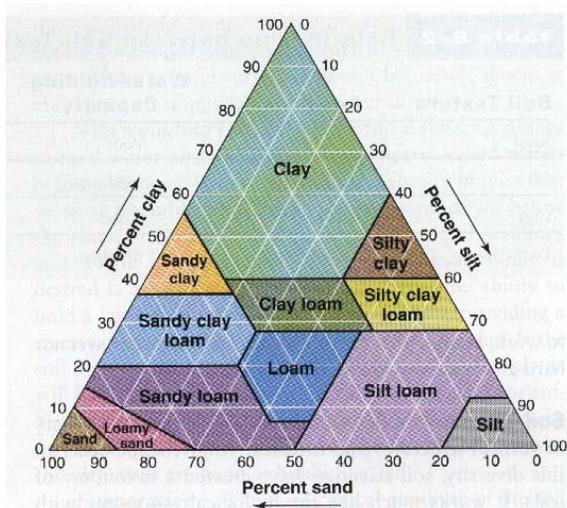


## Particle Size Distribution Activity

Set up on first day, "read" results on day 2. This gives you a rough estimate of what percentages of your soil are clay, silt, and sand.

- Take about 1-2 cups of soil and add it to a cylindrical jar (narrow is best).
- Add enough tap water to fill your jar with enough room to allow for easy shaking. Add a drop of detergent.
- Shake well for a minute. Allow to sit, undisturbed, for 24 hours.
- On your jar, mark off the boundaries between clay, silt, sand. Calculate % of each type of sediment by dividing height of total soil into the height of each layer. You may have some floating, organic material at the top that you can ignore for the sake of this activity.
- Use the soil texture triangle below to determine your soil type.



**Figure 8-5** The soil texture triangle. Relative proportions of sand, clay, and silt are represented on each axis. Major classes of soil are indicated on the triangle. For clay, read across horizontally; for silt, read diagonally downward; for sand, read diagonally upwards to the left. The texture content of any soil should total 100% if the triangle is read properly.