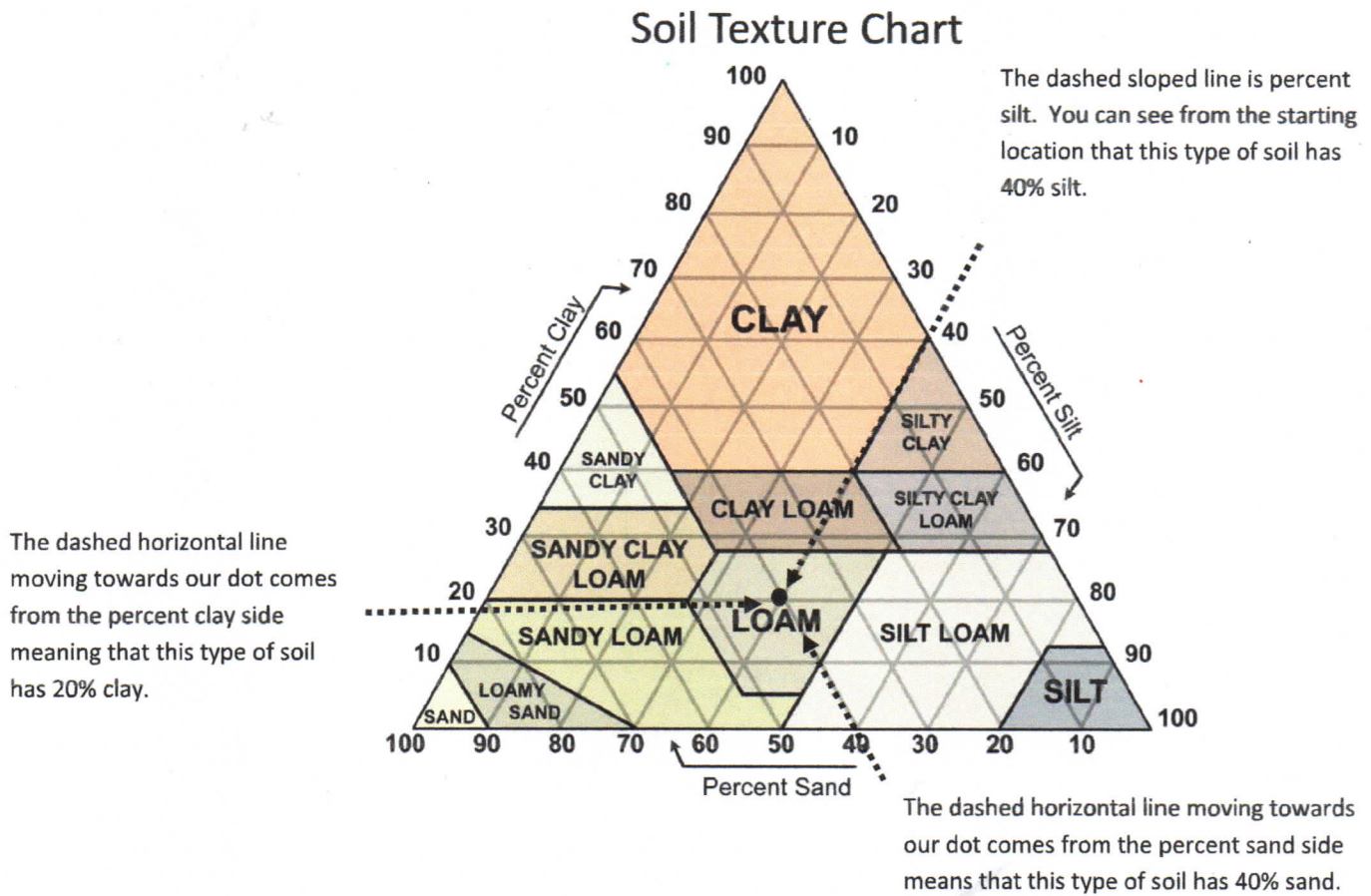


## Reading a Soil Texture Chart

The sides of the soil texture triangle are scaled for the percentages of sand, silt, and clay. Clay percentages are read from left to right across the triangle. Silt is read from the upper right to lower left. Sand is read from lower right towards the upper left portion of the triangle.

The boundaries of the soil texture classes are highlighted with a bolder line. The intersection of the three sizes on the triangle gives the texture class.

Let's walk through this in more detail trying to identify a loam soil. The black dot highlights a spot inside this area that would be classified as this type of soil.



So loam, our best growing soil, would have a soil texture of 20% clay, 40% silt, and 40% sand. One great thing about using this chart is the ease of checking your work. All three parts have to add to 100%. If your numbers don't equal 100%, you've made a mistake.