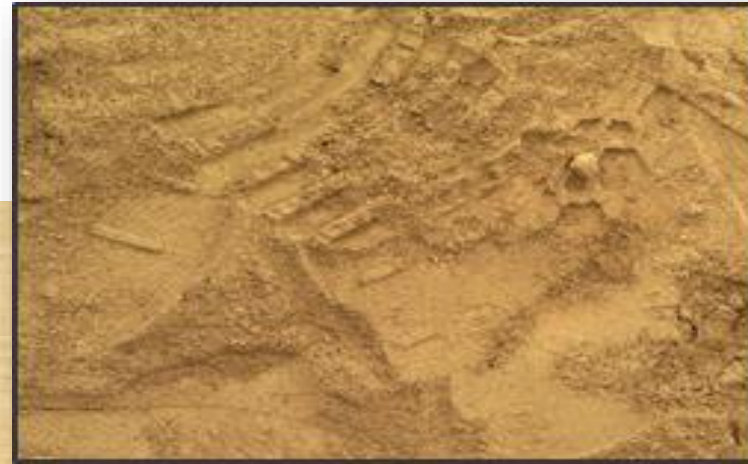


A. Read the information about the different types of soil and discuss the questions that follow.

Different types of soil



Sandy soil is soil filled with sand. It is rough, dry and doesn't have many nutrients. Sand has the largest sized grains of all the soil types, this means water drains through it quickly. Think of a bathtub which has big holes in the drain, the bigger the holes are the faster the water will run out. The same happens with soil; the bigger the soil grains are the faster the water will pass through.



Clay soil has the smallest sized grains of all. This means not a lot of water drains through. This type of soil is smooth when dry but sticky when wet. It is very thick and hard which makes it difficult for plants to spread their roots. When it rains this soil becomes so wet it can overflow. The excess water prevents oxygen from passing through the soil to the plants.



Silt soil has medium-sized grains. It feels smooth and holds nutrients and moisture well. It's a good soil for plants.



Loam soil has the best properties of all. It is a mixture of sandy, clay and silt and drains at a normal speed. It is a perfect soil for plants.





Vocabulary

soil = χώμα

clay = άργιλος

sandy = αμμώδης, αμμώδες

silt = λάσπη

loam = πηλός, πηλώδες έδαφος

rough = τραχύς

dry = ξηρός

nutrients = θρεπτικά συστατικά

grains = δημητριακά, σιτηρά, σπόροι, κόκκοι

size = μέγεθος

drain = στραγγίζω, σουρώνω, αποστράγγιση, σωλήνας, σιφόνι

through = μέσα από

bath tub = μπανιέρα

holes = τρύπες

run out = τελειώνει κάτι

smooth = λείος, απαλός

sticky = κολλώδης

thick = παχύς, χοντρός (για αντικείμενα)

hard = σκληρός

spread = απλώνω

roots = ρίζες

overflow = ξεχειλίζω, πλημμυρίζω

excess = υπερβολή, πλεόνασμα

prevent somebody / something from + V-ing = εμποδίζω/αποτρέπω κάποιον ή κάτι από.....

hold = συγκρατώ

moisture = υγρασία

properties = ιδιότητες

mixture = μείγμα

at normal speed = σε φυσιολογική ταχύτητα

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of soil is there in your country?
2. Why is good soil important?
3. Which is the best soil for plants? Why?
4. Which type of soil is not good for the plants at all? Why?

B.

CultiAdvice

Dear Green Thumb:
My tomatoes are dying. They get plenty of sun and water. What am I doing wrong? — Tom G.

Dear Tom:
Check the **soil**. Tomato roots need the right amount of water and air. They don't do well in **sand** or **clay**. Both have the wrong **soil structure**. Sand particles are too loose to hold enough water. **Dense** clay prevents **aeration**. You need a **soil texture** in between those extremes. **Loam** with high **silt** is usually good. The other issue is nutrients. A soil's **parent material** determines what nutrients are in it. You can improve the nutrients by adding **humus**.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 What kind of soil is there in your country?

2 Why is good soil important?

humus

a. Read the text and say where you think it comes from.

.....
.....

b. Mark the following statements as True (T) or False (F).

1. Tomatoes grow well in clay.
2. Aeration does not occur in clay.
3. Humus adds nutrients to soil.

c. Fill in the blanks with the correct words and phrases from the ones given below.

aeration, clay, loam, humus, soil structures

1. Some _____ hold more water than others.
2. Crops don't grow well in pure _____.
3. Use _____ to add nutrients to soil.
4. _____ provides roots with air.
5. _____ is a mix of three soil types.

d. Match the words (1-6) with their meanings (A-F).

1. soil 2. sand 3. silt
4. soil texture 5. parent material
6. dense

- A. material made of small pieces of rock and mineral
- A. material deposited by water
- B. rock and minerals that eventually form soil.
- C. layer of material that plants grow in
- D. the size of particles in a soil
- E. having a lot of material in a small place

Vocabulary

have a green thumb = έχω ταλέντο στην κηπουρική, είμαι καλός στα φυτά

(επίσης: have green thumbs, have green fingers)

thumb = αντίχειρας, ξεφυλλίζω βιβλίο, γυρίζω τις σελίδες με τον αντίχειρα

advice column = στήλη (σε εφημερίδα, περιοδικό) συμβουλών

plenty of = άφθονος

amount = ποσό

do well in ... = τα πάω καλά σε κάτι

soil structure = δομή του χώματος

particles = σωματίδια

loose = χαλαρός

too + adjective to do sth = (με αρνητική σημασία) παραείναι για κάτι

dense = πυκνός

aeration = αερισμός

soil texture = υφή του χώματος

in between = ανάμεσα

issue = θέμα

parent material = μητρικό ή γονικό υλικό

determine = καθορίζω, προσδιορίζω

improve = βελτιώνω

add = προσθέτω

humus = μαυρόχωμα