

Section 7 of 22 (7c – Estimated  
Soil Moisture by  
Feel and Appearance)

Appearance of sandy clay loam, loam, and silt loam soils  
at various soil moisture conditions.



25-50 percent available  
1.6-0.8 in./ft. depleted

Slightly moist, forms a weak ball with rough surfaces, no water staining on fingers, few aggregated soil grains break away.



50-75 percent available  
1.1-0.4 in./ft. depleted

Moist, forms a ball, very light staining on fingers, darkened color, pliable, forms a weak ribbon between the thumb and forefinger.



75-100 percent available  
0.5-0.0 in./ft. depleted

Wet, forms a ball with well-defined finger marks, light to heavy soil/water coating on fingers, ribbons between thumb and forefinger.

Appearance of clay, clay loam, and silt clay loam soils  
at various soil moisture conditions.



25-50 percent available  
1.8-0.8 in./ft. depleted

Slightly moist, forms a weak ball, very few soil aggregations break away, no water stains, clods flatten with applied pressure.



50 - 75 percent available  
1.2-0.4 in./ft. depleted

Moist, forms a smooth ball with defined finger marks, light soil/water staining on fingers, ribbons between thumb and forefinger.



75-100 percent available  
0.6-0.0 in./ft. depleted

Wet, forms a ball, uneven medium to heavy soil/water coating on fingers, ribbons easily between thumb and forefinger.