A: Degree of Development (GRADE)

1. Take a soil sod. Break it open using gentle hand pressure exposing a natural cleavage plane. Observe the number of distinctive peds and the degree of ped separation.
2. Disturb the soil more and observe the proportions of whole and broken aggregates, and unaggregated material.

- Is there any observable aggregation?
  - NO → STRUCTURELESS
  - YES → Are there few distinguishable peds initially and when disturbed a mixture of a few entire peds, many broken peds, and much unaggregated material?
    - NO → WEAKLY DEVELOPED
    - YES → Are the peds evident but not prominent initially and when disturbed a mixture of many entire peds, some broken peds, and little unaggregated material?
      - NO → MODERATELY DEVELOPED
      - YES → Are there many prominent peds weakly adhering to one another, and when disturbed mainly entire peds, few broken peds, and little or no unaggregated material?
        - YES → STRONGLY DEVELOPED

B: TYPE (form)

- Is it rectangular in form with length approx. ≥ 2 times width?
  - YES → Prismatike
  - NO → Is it cube-like in form or makes up part of a cube?
    - YES → Blocklike
    - NO → Is it flattened and layered in form?
      - YES → Pistelike
      - NO → Is the form generally rounded?
        - YES → Spheroideal
        - NO → Does the shapes look porous like a breadcrumb?
          - YES → CRUMB
          - NO → GRANULAR

C: CLASS (size)

- < 10 mm very fine
- 10-20 mm fine
- 20-50 mm medium
- 50-100 mm coarse
- > 100 mm very coarse
- < 5 mm very fine
- 5-10 mm fine
- 10-20 mm medium
- 20-50 mm coarse
- 50-100 mm very coarse
- < 1 mm very thin
- 1-2 mm thin
- 2-5 mm medium
- 5-10 mm thick
- > 10 mm very thick

Flow diagram for the assessment of soil structure.