The Feel of Textural Classes

1. Sand
   a. Moist sand sample collapses after squeezing, non-sticky, non-plastic
   b. Hand stays clean working sample
   c. Feels gritty
2. Loamy Sand
   a. Sample has very little body, non-sticky, non-plastic
   b. Moist soil barely stays together after squeezing.
   c. Just enough silt to dirty your hands
   d. Will not form ribbon
3. Sandy Loam
   a. Sand noticeably evident, non-sticky, non-plastic
   b. Enough silt and loam to give body
   c. Moist soil stays together after squeezing
   d. Barely forms ribbon at all
4. Sandy Clay Loam
   a. Moist sample feels Gritty and Sticky, slightly plastic
   b. Forms ribbon 1-2" long
5. Sandy Clay
   a. Can feel sand in sample, stains fingers, sticky, slightly plastic
   b. Forms ribbon 2-3" long
6. Loam
   a. Sand noticeable, but not dominant, nonsticky, nonplastic
   b. Sample works easily between thumb & forefinger (friable)
   c. Contains enough silt & clay to give sample good body
   d. Sample forms only short, broken ribbons
7. Silt Loam
   a. Feels smooth like flour or cornstarch with grains of sand noticeable
   b. Tends to be nonsticky, nonplastic
   c. Forms only short, broken ribbons
8. Silt
   a. Feels like flour or cornstarch
   b. Tends to be nonsticky, nonplastic
   c. Forms ribbons less than 1 inch
9. Clay Loam
   a. Noticeably gritty, but sand doesn't dominate
   b. Noticeably sticky, plastic
   c. Harder to work between thumb & forefinger, stains fingers
   d. Forms gritty ribbon 1-2 1/2" long
10. Silty Clay Loam
    a. Feels smooth & slightly sticky, slightly plastic
    b. Contains very little sand, stains fingers
    c. Forms ribbon 1-2 1/2" long
11. Silty Clay
    a. Dry sample absorbs a lot of water before it's moist enough to work, slightly sticky
    b. Sample hard to work between thumb & forefinger, stains fingers
    c. Forms ribbon 2 1/2-4" long, sticky, plastic
12. Clay
    a. Dry sample absorbs a lot of water before it's moist enough to work, very sticky
    b. Sample hard to work between thumb & forefinger, stains fingers, smooth satiny feel
    c. Forms flexible ribbon 2 1/2-4" long, sticky, retains plasticity