

TABLE 1. SOIL MOISTURE DETERMINATION (FROM HARRIS, 1983)

SANDY LOAM (gritty when moist; some grit and clay)	CLAY LOAM (sticky and plastic when moist)	AMOUNT OF MOISTURE READILY AVAILABLE FOR TREES
FEEL OR APPEARANCE OF SOILS		
Dry, loose, flows through fingers	Dry clods that break down into powdery substances	Close to 0%. Little or no moisture available
Still appears to be dry; will not form a ball	Somewhat crumbly; will hold together with pressure	50% or less. Approaching time to irrigate
Tends to ball under pressure but will seldom hold together	Forms a ball; somewhat plastic; will sometimes stick slightly with pressure	50% to 75%. Enough available moisture
Forms weak ball; breaks easily; will not become slick	Forms a ball and is very pliable; becomes slick readily if high in clay	75% field capacity. Plenty of available moisture
Upon squeezing, no free water appears, but moisture is left on hand	Same as sandy loam	At field capacity, soil won't hold any more water (after draining).
Free water is released after kneading	Can squeeze out free water	Above field capacity. Unless water drains out, soil will be water logged