5.3 TYPES OF SOIL

SOIL

- Soil is the thin, loose layer of matter on the surface of the Earth's crust.
- •Soil is made of two main components:
 - Fragments of rocks and minerals
 - Organic matter (decomposing living things) we often call this layer humus

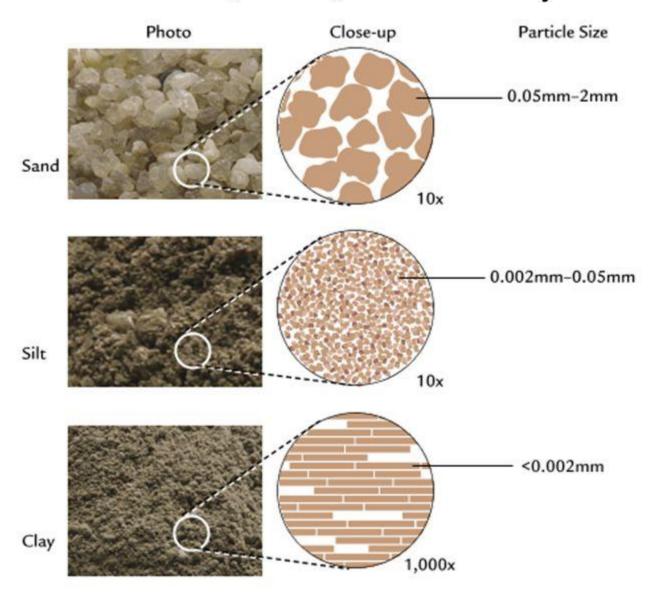
SOIL PARTICLES

- •Soils are classified by the proportion of the different particles
- •These particles are classified based on their size

SOIL PARTICLES

- •Clay less than 0.002 mm
- •Loam from 0.002 mm to 0.05 mm
- •Sand from 0.05 mm to 2 mm
- •Gravel larger than 2 mm

Sand, Silt, and Clay



Clay soil

Mostly made up of clay

Since particles are so small they stick together very

easily like Play-Doh

Soak up water very easily



Loamy soil

- Mostly made up of loam
- Particles still very small but more crumbly than clay soils
- Air and water move more easily through loamy soils than clay soils
- Unfortunately means it erodes more easily

Sandy soil

- Mostly made up of sand
- Particles are larger and therefore there is more space to let water through
- Does not hold onto water very well



Humus-bearing soil

Mostly made up of humus (decomposed organic

matter)

Very rich in nutrients

