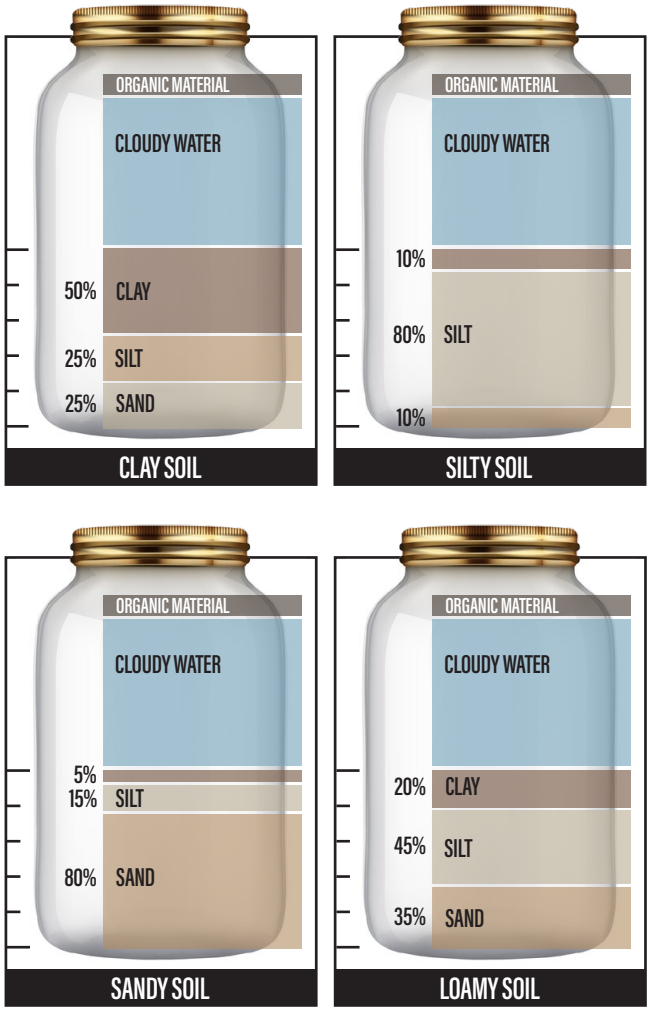
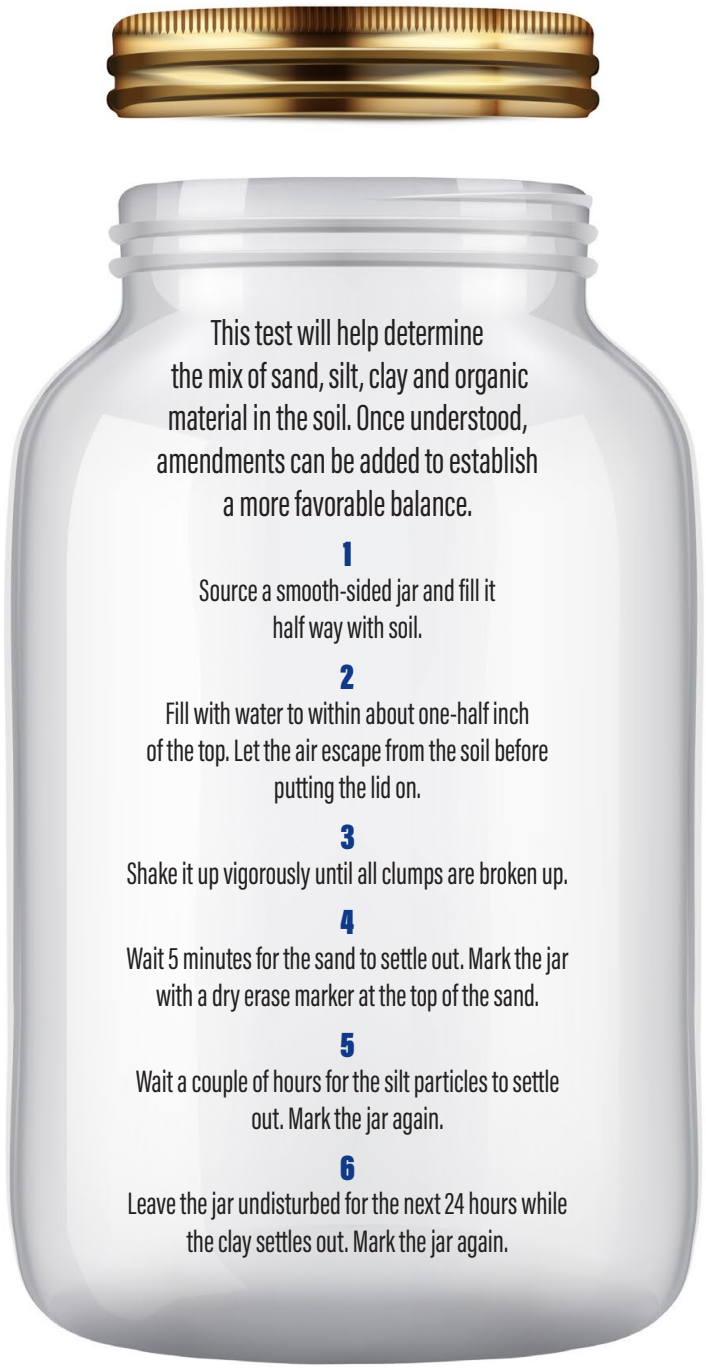
Soil-Typing

DETERMINING SOIL TYPE USING THE **JAR COMPOSITION TEST**





This test will help determine the mix of sand, silt, clay and organic material in the soil. Once understood, amendments can be added to establish a more favorable balance.

1
Source a smooth-sided jar and fill it half way with soil.

2
Fill with water to within about one-half inch of the top. Let the air escape from the soil before putting the lid on.

3
Shake it up vigorously until all clumps are broken up.

4
Wait 5 minutes for the sand to settle out. Mark the jar with a dry erase marker at the top of the sand.

5
Wait a couple of hours for the silt particles to settle out. Mark the jar again.

6
Leave the jar undisturbed for the next 24 hours while the clay settles out. Mark the jar again.

Analyzing the Results

CLAY SOIL: More than 40% clay, less than 40% silt, and less than 45% sand.

SILTY SOIL: More than 70% silt, less than 10% clay, and less than 15% sand.

SANDY SOIL: More than 75% sand, less than 15% silt, and less than 10% clay.

LOAMY SOIL: Anything else—congratulations! You've got loamy soil.