

Student Handout: Soil Structure

Use this guide to determine your soil structure.

Granular

Granular soil looks like cookie crumbs. It is very loose and has many pores.



Blocky

Blocky soil has rounded or angular edges. They range from the size of a pea to a walnut.



Platy

Thin, flat pieces of soil that lie flat on top of each other. Usually found in compacted soil.



Columnar or Prismatic

Vertical columns of soil and fewer pores than blocky soil. Columnar soils have rounded salt "caps" and are generally found in arid climates.



Single-Grained

Soil is in individual particles that do not stick together. Very common in sandy soils.



Massive (not pictured)

Massive soil has no structure and no pores. Soil is hard to break apart or simply falls apart along random breaks and appears in large clods.