

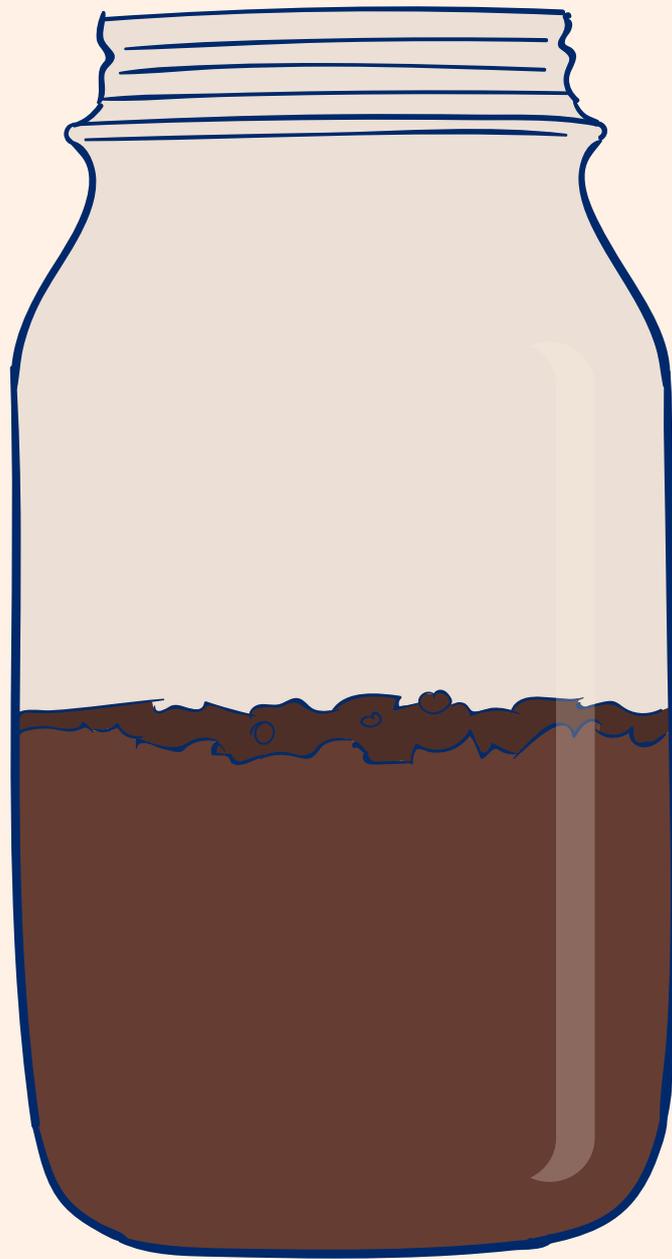


How to test and manage your soil?

A guide to monitoring and managing soil health

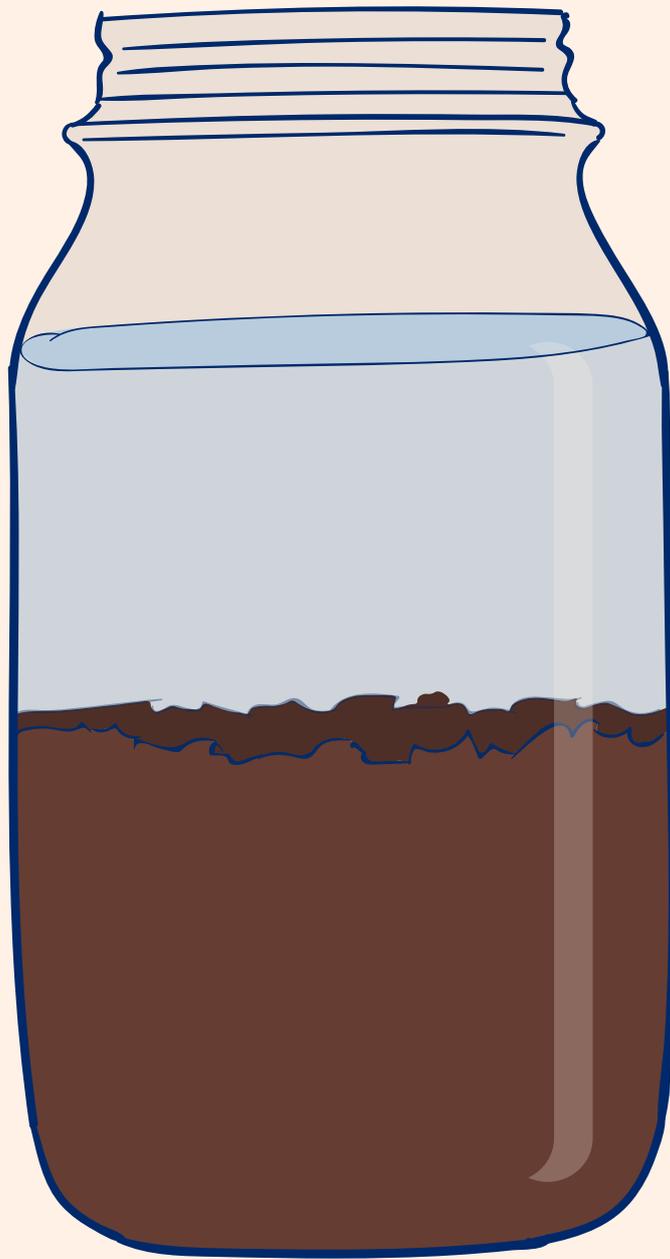
1

Fill the glass bottle about half way with your soil sample.



2

Fill water till the bottle is almost full.



3

Put the lid on and shake the bottle for 5 minutes - shake thoroughly.



4

Leave the bottle standing for about an hour without disturbing it.



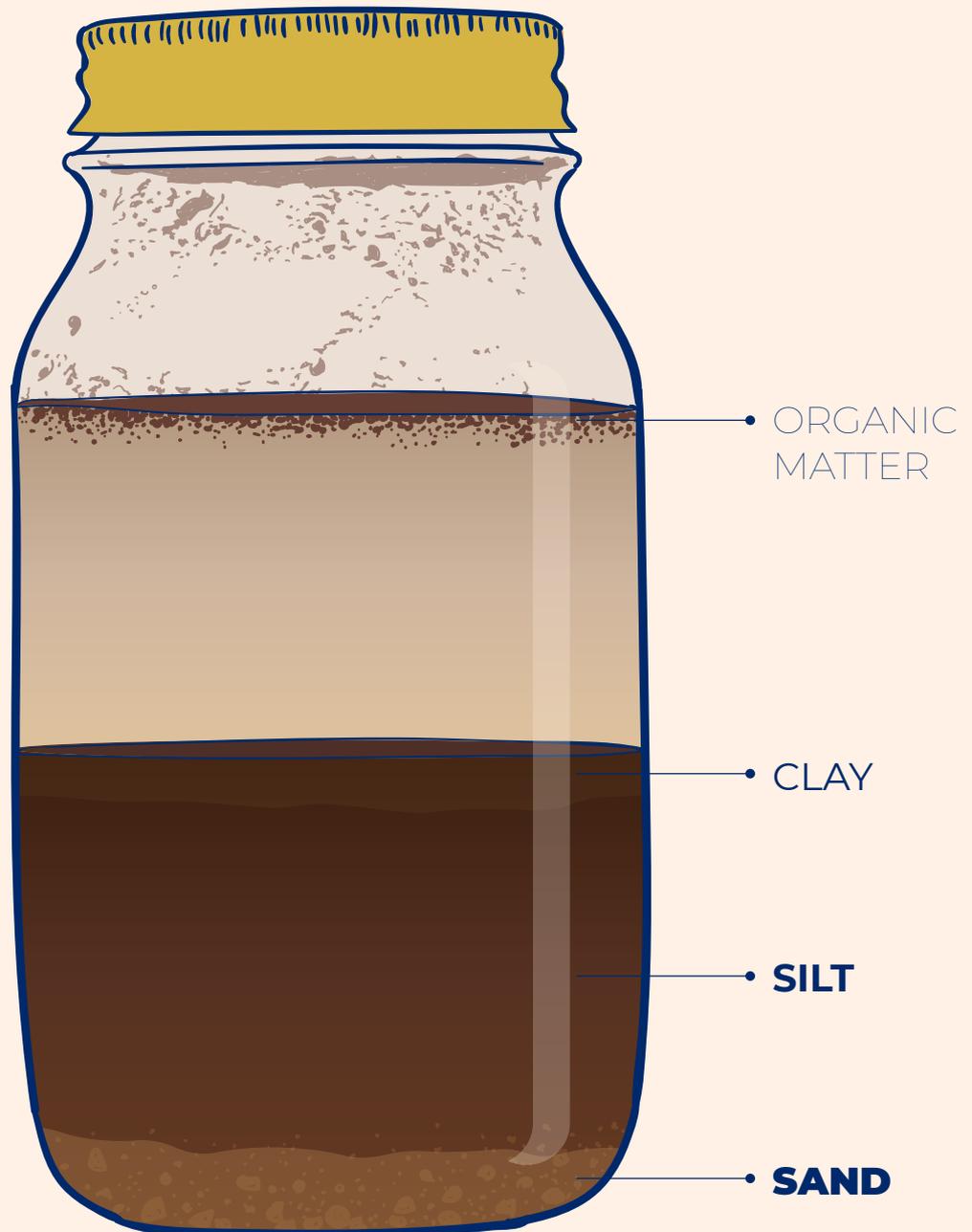
5

After an hour you will observe that the soil has settled down in layers.



6

Note that the heavier particles settle to the bottom and lighter clay particles settle on top of those. Also note that organic matter floats up in the water and does not settle down.



7

Note the thickness of each layer from bottom to top and record as sand-silt-clay.



8

Also note how concentrated the organic matter is - for soil that is fertile and grows crops with good yield, this is about 20 % of the soil in the bottle. If this is not the case, add more organic matter (compost, vermicompost, humus) to your soil.



— ORGANIC
— MATTER

