

What's in soil?

Sand:

- forms light, free draining soil
- cannot hold onto nutrients.

Living organisms:

- include insects, bacteria, and earthworms
- help to rot dead material

Clay:

- holds water well
- can become heavy and waterlogged when wet
- can hold onto nutrients

Organic matter:

- includes farmyard manure, leaf mould and compost
- releases nutrients slowly as it rots
- improves water holding

Silt:

- holds water
- can be hard to drain
- can only hold limited nutrients

Water:

- clings to soil particles
- is taken up by plant roots

Air:

- fills gaps in soil
- helps roots to 'breathe'

