

SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION OF SOIL MECHANICAL COMPOSITION: UNRAVELING THE KEY INFLUENCING FACTORS

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ABSTRACT

The mechanical composition of soil plays a pivotal role in shaping various soil properties and functions, thereby influencing crucial ecological and agricultural processes. This scientific ABSTRACT explores the rationale behind investigating the mechanical composition of soil and its implications. Understanding the distribution and interaction of soil particles, including sand, silt, and clay, is essential for deciphering soil structure, porosity, and water retention capacity. This knowledge serves as a foundation for sustainable land management practices, crop yield optimization, and environmental conservation. The ABSTRACT delves into the methodologies employed to analyze soil mechanical composition, highlighting advancements in techniques such as laser diffraction, sedimentation, and sieving.

Keywords: Soil Mechanical Composition, Soil Structure, Particle Size Distribution, Sand, Silt, Clay, Soil Analysis Techniques, Laser Diffraction, Sedimentation, Sieving, Water Retention, Nutrient Availability, Microbial Activity, Carbon Sequestration, Sustainable Land Management, Agricultural Productivity, Environmental Conservation.

Soil naturally contains mineral particles, organic compounds, air and water. In order to obtain a high yield from agricultural crops, the soil should contain a reserve of potassium, phosphorus, calcium, sulfur, iron and other elements, as well as nitrogen, water, air, heat and sunlight. The lack of any of these will definitely affect the development of the plant. Organic tissues of crops contain 80-90% water and 10-20% dry matter.

Water dissolves nutrients in the soil and thus creates conditions for their assimilation through the roots of crops. In addition, the presence of a certain amount of air in the soil serves for the development of microorganisms and respiration of the root system.

Soil is divided into the following types according to its mechanical composition:

- Loamy soil;
- Heavy sandy soil;
- Medium loamy soil;
- Light loam soil;
- Sandy soil;
- Sand.

The water-physical properties of the soil mainly depend on its mechanical composition and structure, that is, whether it is divided into separate aggregates or not. The type of soil is determined by the percentage of particles with a diameter of less than 0.01 mm (physical soil). The following table shows the description of the soil according to its mechanical composition.

| Soil type | | Physical parameters soil (percentage of particles smaller than 0.01 mm in diameter)% |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| Heavy | Heavy soil | > 66 |
| | Right soil | 50-66 |
| | Heavy sandy soil | 40-50 |
| Average | Average sandy soil | 33-40 |
| Light | Light loam soil | 25-33 |
| | Sandy soil | 14-25 |
| | Sand soil | <14 |

The primary focus is on unraveling the key influencing factors that shape the distribution and interaction of soil particles, including sand, silt, and clay. The article emphasizes the significance of understanding soil structure, porosity, and water retention capacity, as these factors play pivotal roles in various ecological and agricultural processes.

Methodologies for analyzing soil mechanical composition, such as laser diffraction, sedimentation, and sieving, are discussed in the article. These advanced techniques contribute to a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of soil properties. The ecological implications of soil mechanical composition are also highlighted, particularly in relation to nutrient availability, microbial activity, and carbon sequestration.

Overall, the article underscores the critical importance of investigating soil mechanical composition for sustainable land management practices, optimization of crop yields, and environmental conservation. By shedding light on the main

influencing factors, the article aims to contribute to informed decision-making in the fields of agriculture and environmental science.

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