OFE Growers Newsletter for March 30, 2023

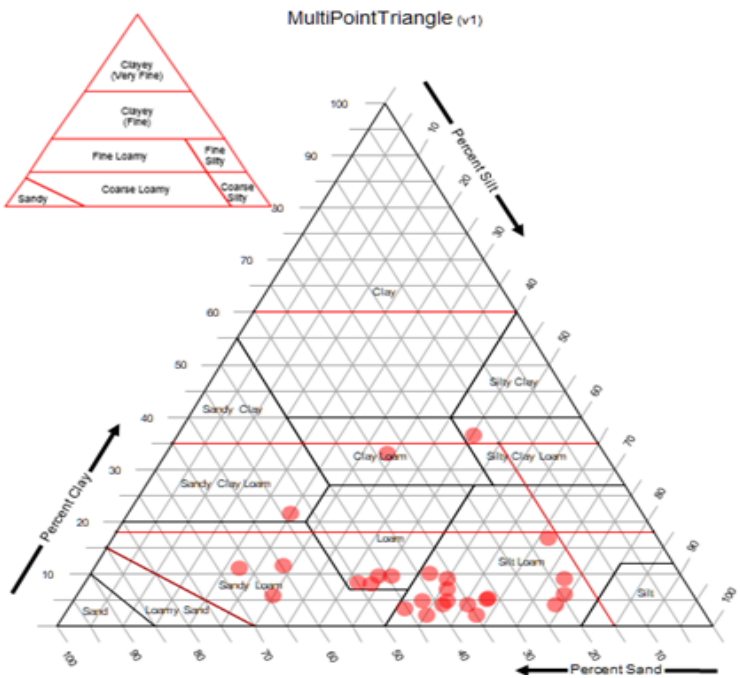
This week we started learning about tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers. Each of these vegetables are in the Solanaceae family. What are some of the characteristics of the solanaceae family? Refer to pages 22 and 23 of your gardening books for the answer.

The weather this last week was mostly on the cool side, good for leafy greens but not so good for peppers, and tomatoes and such. Spring has begun according to the calendar, right?, (20th of March) and the garden is looking really good. We have begun planting tomatoes, and soon peppers. It is time now to get the spring garden planted. We have much to harvest as well, turnips and radishes, collards, kale and spinach too.

We have hilled the potatoes in both the Annex and the Orchard and they look fantastic this year. And how about those onions?! Super.

The results of the soil sedimentation experiment have been combined and are presented below. This is a repeat of the prior newsletter because it is possible that a class might look for the newsletter that corresponds to the day they gardened outside.

As you can see, most of the Main garden beds are showing up as containing a silt loam soil. Would you have expected that? If you haven't researched it yet a loamy soil is a category of soil in which sand, silt, and clay are considered to be in the desirable pore size range. What does that mean, the sand content is approximately 40%, the silt range is approximately 40%, and the clay content is approximately 20%. So when a silty loam is identified, as in most of our Main garden beds, it means that the silt content is bit higher but that the pore size is still adequate to allow for good drainage and that there is adequate air space for root health. Take a look at your results and next time when you working in a bed think about whether it looks like a sandy-, silty-, or clay-like loam.



Instructions: Populate yellow cells. Total Sand, Silt, and Clay must equal 100%. Sand fractions are optional (only used with sands, loamy sands, and sandy loams if known), but if used must equal Total Sand.

Total	Sand (%)	18.20%
	Clay (%)	36.30%
	Silt (%)	45.50%
Sand Fractions	Very Coarse Sand (%)	
	Coarse Sand (%)	
	Medium Sand (%)	
	Fine Sand (%)	
	Very Fine Sand (%)	
	Sand Fractions Sum	0.00%
USDA Texture	SILTY CLAY LOAM	

Point	Sand	Clay	Silt	Texture
A1	64.20%	5.70%	30.10%	SANDY LOAM
A3	59.60%	11.50%	28.90%	SANDY LOAM
M10A	16.70%	16.70%	66.60%	SILT LOAM
M10B	50.00%	8.30%	41.70%	LOAM
M11A	35.00%	2.00%	63.00%	SILT LOAM
M11B	37.00%	7.00%	56.00%	SILT LOAM
M13A	32.00%	5.00%	63.00%	SILT LOAM
M13B	39.20%	3.90%	56.90%	SILT LOAM
M14A	46.20%	9.60%	44.20%	LOAM
M14B	45.20%	3.20%	51.60%	SILT LOAM
M15A	42.60%	1.90%	55.50%	SILT LOAM
M15B	35.30%	3.90%	60.80%	SILT LOAM
M16A	44.20%	9.60%	46.20%	LOAM
M16B	53.60%	21.40%	25.00%	SANDY CLAY LOAM
M2	38.00%	10.00%	52.00%	SILT LOAM
M3	36.00%	9.00%	55.00%	SILT LOAM
M5A	18.00%	9.00%	73.00%	SILT LOAM
M5B	33.00%	33.00%	34.00%	CLAY LOAM
M6A	18.20%	36.30%	45.50%	SILTY CLAY LOAM
M6B	31.60%	5.30%	63.10%	SILT LOAM
M7A	38.10%	4.80%	57.10%	SILT LOAM
M9A	66.70%	11.10%	22.20%	SANDY LOAM
M9B	22.00%	4.00%	74.00%	SILT LOAM
O15	48.00%	8.00%	44.00%	LOAM
O16	19.60%	5.90%	74.50%	SILT LOAM
O2	41.90%	4.70%	53.40%	SILT LOAM

Great results, until next time,