

BECOME A DIRT DETECTIVE

GETTING STARTED...

There is an important case we need to solve, and the dirt detectives are here to help! Detecting different types of soil in your garden is a great way of understanding how our plants grow. Certain plants need sandy soil with not too much water, others need a clay like soil which is super sticky.



GET DETECTING...

Can you detect, which is which? Grab your best detectives outfit, a magnifying glass and a clipboard, because it is time to collect some dirt clue data!



SANDY SOIL

If your soil is super dry and gritty, you might have some sandy soil! It doesn't hold water very well because it is grainy like sand. It doesn't hold together in a mud sausage roll and doesn't have a lot of nutrients either. This soil is GREAT for succulents and cacti that hold water in their leaves and roots.



CLAY SOIL

If your soil is super sticky and a little crumbly, you've found clay soil! You might find clay soil around native Australian plants, like a bottlebrush. It's full of nutrients and becomes very dry but with too much water it becomes very sticky and heavy. This makes it roll perfectly for a mud sausage roll.



LOAM SOIL

If your soil is a little gritty but also a little clay-like you have probably come across loam soil. Being a combination soil it also has silt which washes down from the rivers making it smooth and silky. In a mud sausage roll, it holds together before falling apart and can usually be found in a veggie patch.



TOP TIP!

To test your soil add some water to the mix and see if you can roll it into a mud sausage roll. This will tell you which soil you have found!

