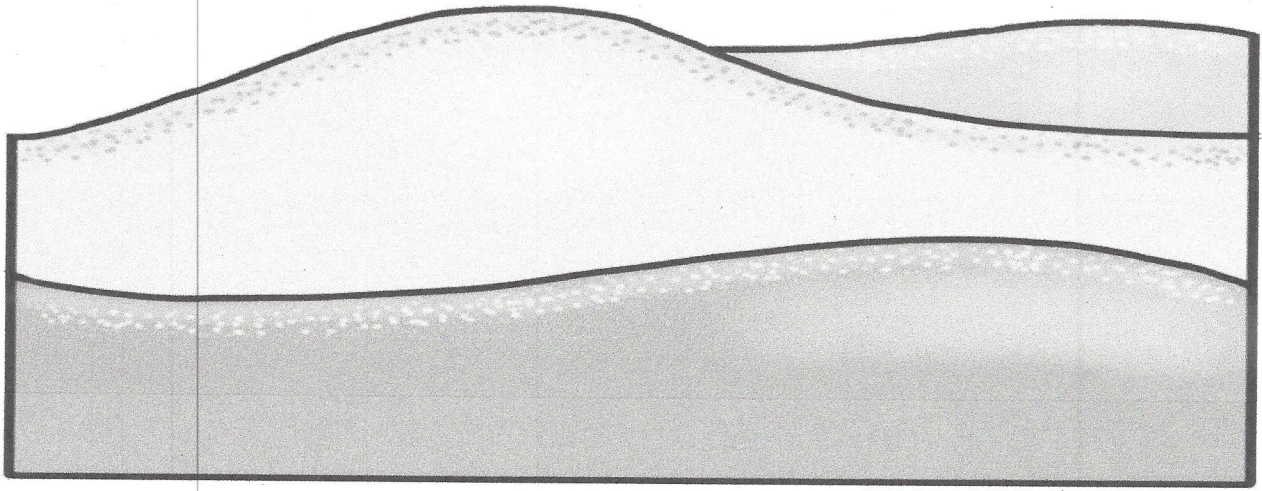


Clay

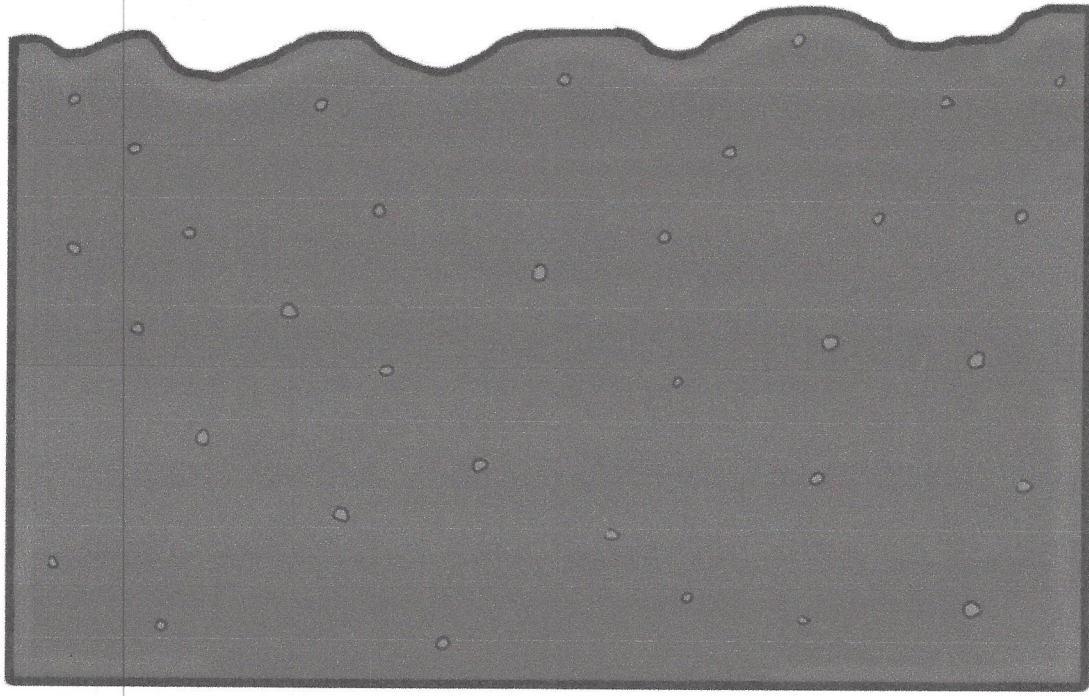
- sticks together
- feels greasy
- is at least half clay; the rest is sand, silt and humus
- when clay is wet you can shape it and then it hardens when it is dry
- holds water very well
- very small grains that are tightly packed
- plants do not grow well in it
- drains slowly
- small air spaces

*Shale is hard clay



Sand

- a type of rock found in soil
- falls apart easily
- feels gritty
- is mostly sand, mixed with a little silt, clay and humus
- loose
- does not hold water well
- most plants do not grow well in it
- drains quickly
- large air spaces between the particles
- dries out quickly
- can't be shaped unless it is wet



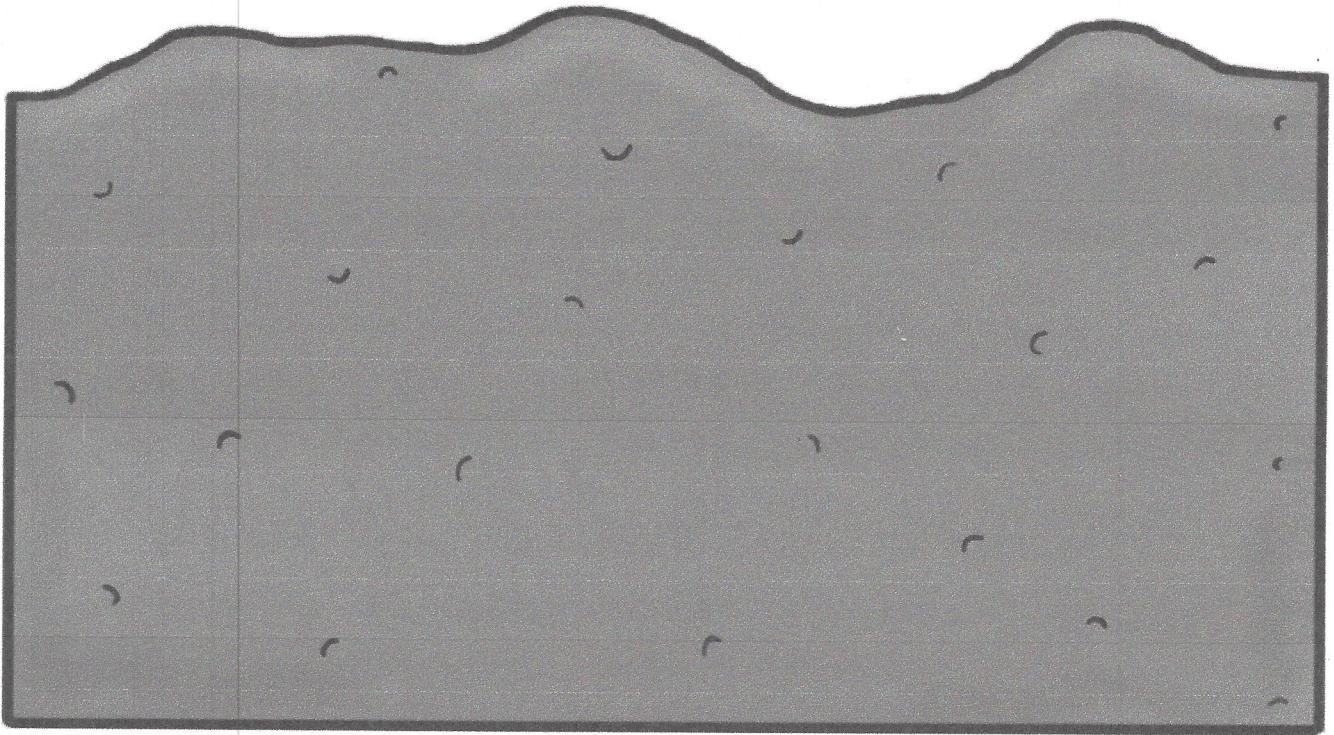
Loam

- forms clods
- feels like velvet
- is about half sand, a third clay, and the rest is silt and humus
- useful to gardeners
- holds the most water and has nutrients plants need



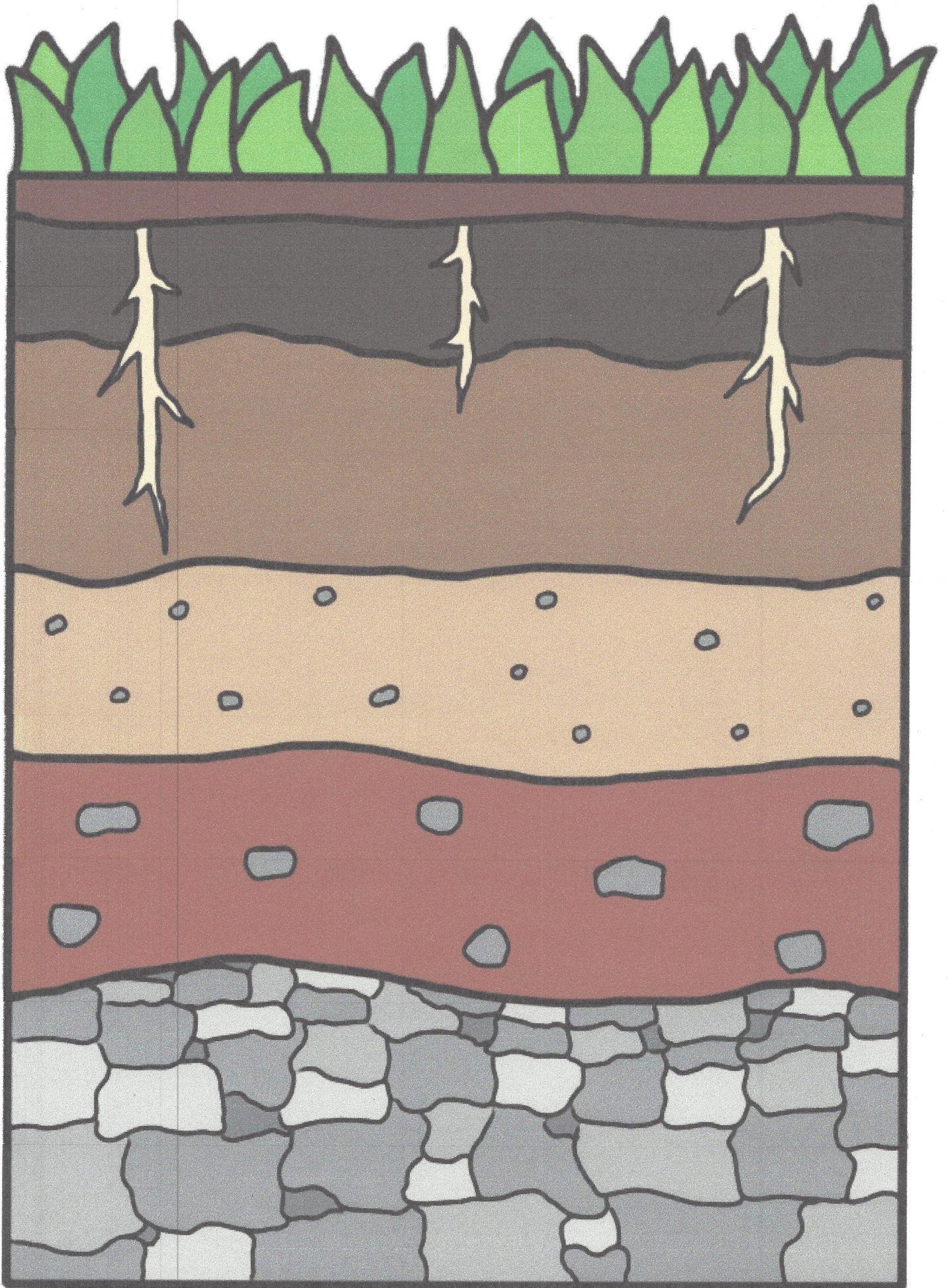
Humus

- happens organically in nature
- rotted plants and animals
- is soft and spongy
- falls apart quite easily
- is composed of decayed vegetation and decayed animals
- Very dark brown
- Crumbles when you touch it
- Mixes with tiny rocks, air, and water to form soil.
- Compost is the manmade version of humus



Silt

- A type of rock found in soil
- Holds water well
- Can be blown away by the wind when dry
- A combination of clay and sand
- Can be seen after a flood and the waters recede



Soil Layers

Different Types of Soil

Clay	Sand	Loam Garden Soil	Humus Compost
