

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: SOIL COMPOSITION AND PROPERTIES

WEEK: 5

CLASS: JSS2

DEFINITION OF SOIL

Soil can be defined as a medium on which plants grow on the uppermost layers of the earth's crust.

TYPES OF SOIL AND PROPERTIES

Soil is made up of particles .these particles may be very small, quite big, or mixture of different sizes of particles in various proportions. This is what gives different soils their completely different properties.

1. Sandy soil
2. Silt
3. Clay soil
4. Loamy soil

SANDY SOIL: The particles are coarse gritty to the touch, large enough to be seen with the naked eyes. They are loose and have large air spaces. They are well drained easy to work and nutrient leach out easily, it has up to 70% sand.

SILT SOIL: They are smooth, powdery and have large surface area, they are slightly sticky.

CLAY SOIL: Clay particles are very tiny ,they are sticky when moisten with water and could be molded into shapes .clay soil holds water and excludes air.it is poorly drained and waterlogged ,it is heavy to work on but rich in nutrients, it has 40% or more clay.

LAOMY SOIL: Loamy soil has roughly equal proportion of sand silt and clay.it is crumbly to the touch ,has good air spaces and drainage .it is rich in nutrients, loamy soils combines the good physical properties of sand and the good properties of clay ,it is therefore the best soil for agriculture.

SOIL STRUCTURE

Soil structure refers to the grouping or arrangement of soil particles in aggregate of varying consistency or the physical appearance of the soil according to the way individual particles are packed. Soil structure has a relationship with air ,water and mineral component of the soil.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Define soil
2. List four types of soil
3. Define soil structure