THE equilateral triangle has long been in use by soil surveyors to obtain the textural names of the soil, to be used for soil classification and mapping. The soil separates are arranged in three groups, namely, sand, silt and clay.

Since the sum of the percentages of the components is 100, the textural class in any given case can be uniquely determined from a triangular diagram using only two variables. The figure shows such textural diagrams for the three possible pairs of component percentages.

These diagrams are somewhat simpler to use by beginning students. Also they clarify relations for those soils where one of the textural components is of lesser importance in determining the classification.—W. Elghamry and M. Elashkar, Special Student in Soils, and Associate Professor of Soil Physics, respectively, Department of Soils, College of Agriculture, University of Alexandria, Alexandria, UAR.

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