Soil Type by Texture Flow Chart - Simplified Model

Take a peach pit amount of lightly damp soil into your palm; form it into a ball.

Does it keep its shape?
- Yes
- No
  Is the soil damp enough?
    - Yes
    - No
      Add water.

Is the soil too damp?
- Yes
- No
  Sand

Create a ribbon with your soil and note:
- The texture.
- The length before it breaks.

Sand
- Very gritty.
- No ribbon or very short.

Silt
- Mostly smooth (maybe some grit).
  - <1”

Clay
- Smooth/slippery.
  - >1”

Chart designed by Samantha Elie, 2019 Native Plant Salvage Foundation
Rain Garden Visual Assessment Resources

**Mulch**

**S:** Shredded Mulch (stringy / fibrous with long, coarse particles of varying lengths)

**F:** Fine Mulch (ground wood chips or barks with particles 1” or less)

**C:** Coarse Mulch (arborist chips, nuggets, play chips with particles typically 1 – 3”)

- Fine Mulch:
  - Ground wood chips or barks with particles 1” or less.

- Coarse Mulch:
  - Arborist chips, nuggets, play chips with particles typically 1 – 3”.

- Shredded Mulch:
  - Stringy / fibrous with long, coarse particles of varying lengths.
Puget Sound Rain Garden
Monitoring: Assessment
Resources

Target
Problem Plants

These are plants that have the potential to colonize rapidly if left unchecked

Common Weeds of Concern

Invasive Blackberry Species

Himalayan Blackberry,
*Rubus armeniacus* (syn. *Rubus discolor*)

Evergreen blackberry
*Rubus laciniatus*

Hedge Bindweed

*Convolvulus sepium*, Hedge bindweed is also known as Perennial Morning Glory
Invasive knotweeds
Including Bohemian knotweed (*Polygonum bohemicum*), Japanese knotweed (*P. cuspidatum*), Giant knotweed (*P. sachalinense*) and Himalayan knotweed (*P. polystachyum*). These plants spread easily from root and stem fragments.
“Dandelion” hawkweeds and Sow-thistle

Common hawkweed, \textit{Hieracium lachenalii}

European hawkweed, \textit{Hieracium sabaudum}

Yellow hawkweed, \textit{Hieracium caespitosum}

Prickly sow-thistle, \textit{Sonchus asper}

Perennial sow-thistle, \textit{Sonchus arvensis}
Nuisance Plants

Creeping Grasses

- Fine Fescue
- Perennial Ryegrass
- Reed Canary Grass

Sweet Pea and Vetch

- Common Vetch, *Vicia sativa*
- Hairy vetch, *Vicia villosa*
- Sweet Pea, *Lathyrus tingitanus*

White Clover

*Trifolium repens*
Nuisance Plants

Docks – *Rumex* species

Curly dock, *Rumex crispus*  
Sheep’s sorrel, *Rumex acetosella*

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Nuisance Plants/Indicators of Drainage Problems

Horsetails *Equisetum arvense*
Cattail

Skunk Cabbage

*Symlocarpus foetidus*

Creeping Buttercup

*Ranunculus repens*

Algae in standing water

Purple Loosestrife

(Unless you enjoy algal baths!)
All Thistles
Thistles can be hard to tell apart. All thistles will be considered Target Problem Plants. Some examples of common invasive thistles include:

Canada Thistle

Bull Thistle

Willow Herb *Epilobium ciliatum*