

# Soil Consistency Encyclopedia Article

## Soil Consistency

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# Soil Consistency

The manifestations of the forces of cohesion and adhesion acting within the **soil** at various water contents, as expressed by the relative ease with which a soil can be deformed or ruptured. Consistency states are described by terms such as friable, soft, hard, or very hard. These states are assessed by thumb and thumbnail penetrability and indentability, or more quantitatively, by Atterberg limits, which consist of liquid limit, plastic limit, and plasticity number. Atterberg limits are usually determined in the laboratory and are expressed numerically.

## See Also

Soil Compaction; Soil Conservation; Soil Texture