**Soil Composition Guided Notes**

**Sand**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
|  | * **Too Coarse (rough)**
* **Big space between particles=**
 |

**Silt**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| * **Finer than sand**
* **Makes mud**
 | * **Too light**
* **Erodes easily**
 |

**Clay**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| * **Changes soil chemistry**
 | * **When its dry, it’s almost as hard as concrete**
* **Too fine**
* **Tiny Spaces between soil particles = no air can get through**
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**Directions:** Based on your knowledge of the pros and cons of the different sizes of soil particles, give recommendations to the following farmers to help them improve their soils. Write in COMPLETE sentences.

1. Farmer Julia has soil that erodes very easily. Plants cannot grow in the soil since it is too compact and there isn’t enough space for their roots to grow. Which particle would you recommend that Farmer Julia adds to her soil? Explain your answer.

**2)** Farmer Diana has a mixture of two types of particles in her soil. She has some particles that are coarse and some that are fine and easily make mud. However, plants quickly die in her soil given that they are not able to absorb minerals and the soil is too acidic. What particle is Diana’s soil lacking? Explain your answer.