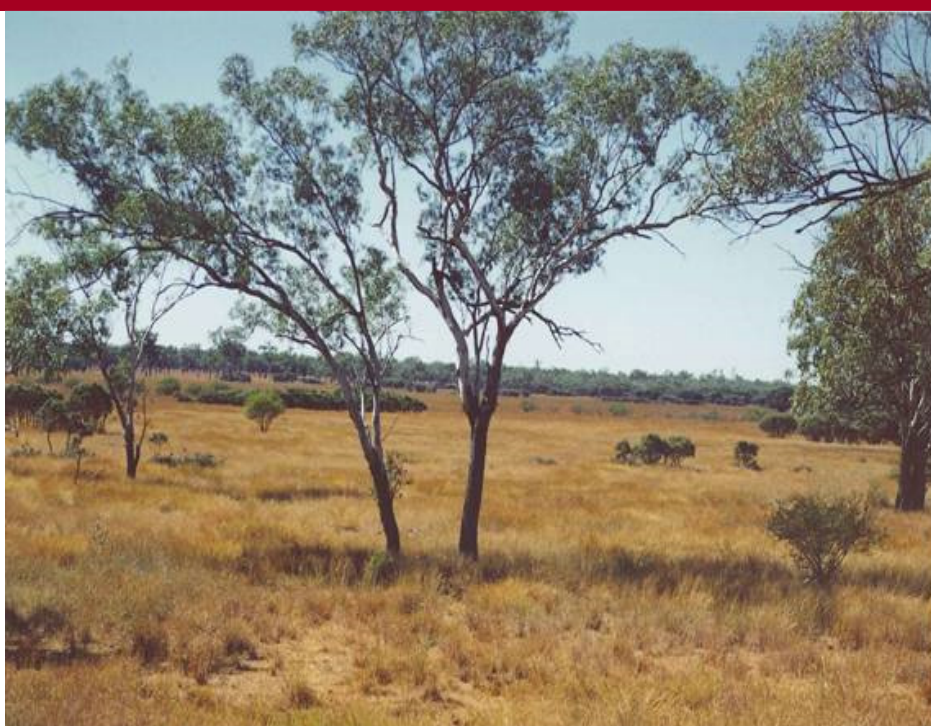


Black basalt



Landform	Level to gently undulating plains.
Woody vegetation	Treeless grass plains with scattered black tea tree scrub, or open mountain coolibah or bloodwood woodlands. Generally understorey is absent.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Queensland bluegrass, curly bluegrass, black speargrass, curly and hoop Mitchell grass, tall cup grass.
Intermediate	Silky browntop, bull Mitchell grass, Angleton bluegrass*.
Non-preferred	Feathertop wiregrass, white speargrass, northern canegrass, tussocky sporobolus, shedra grass*.
Annuals	Liverseed grass*, Flinders grass, button grass, summer grasses.
Suitable sown pastures	Creeping bluegrass, Bambatsi panic, Angleton bluegrass, urochloa, leucaena, Caatinga stylo, butterfly pea, Desmanthus.
Introduced weeds	Rubbervine, parkinsonia, parthenium, prickly acacia, giant rat's tail grass, calotrope, chinee apple, Captain Cook bush, grader grass, noogoora burr, Bathurst burr.
Soil	Self-mulching black cracking clay (vertisol), with variable surface stone cover and carbonate concretions in subsoils.
Description	Surface: Self-mulching; Surface texture: medium to heavy clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.

Water availability	High
Fertility	High
Salinity	Moderately saline in subsoils.
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Moderately alkaline (pH 8.3) at surface, increasing alkalinity down profile.

Utilisation 30%

Enterprise Finishing

Land use and management recommendations

- When mixed with other less fertile land types in a paddock, black basalt areas are at risk of overgrazing. Monitor land condition and adjust management to reduce grazing pressure if necessary.
- When in poor condition, can be rehabilitated or converted to sown pastures.
- Suitable for cropping in stone-free areas that have access to irrigation.
- Rotational wet seasons spelling to maintain perennial pasture composition.
- Heavy grazing encourages germination of introduced weeds, particularly parthenium.
- Maintain at least 50% ground cover at end of dry season to maximise infiltration and reduce soil erosion.

Land use limitations

- Flooding and waterlogging.
- Restricted access in wet conditions.
- May be heavily grazed by feral deer.
- Weed invasion (parthenium).
- Establishment problems with improved pastures due to crusting / cracking or coarse self-mulching surface.
- Limited soil erosion hazard. Prone to rill and gully erosion along tracks and fence lines and on sloping lands.

Conservation features and related management

- Extensively thinned, cleared or cultivated in many areas.
- Springs associated with these communities are significant for local fauna and may support endemic flora.
- Discharge areas may have associated salinity risk.
- These areas (including springs) may be subjected to high total grazing pressure.
- Subject to invasive weed species such as parthenium, rubbervine, grader grass and mimosa.

Regional ecosystems

9.3.10a, 9.3.11b, 9.3.25, 9.3.27a, 9.3.27b, 9.8.10, 9.8.12, 9.8.13, 9.8.5a, 9.8.9

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967) Oxford 2 & 3; AMU (DPI 1993) Orion; Soil Associations (Rogers *et al* 1999) Lolworth, Maryvale.

