## 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.

* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.

**Expected pasture composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Species Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>Queensland bluegrass, curly bluegrass, black speargrass, curly and hoop Mitchell grass, tall cup grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Silky browntop, bull Mitchell grass, Angleton bluegrass*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-preferred</td>
<td>Feathertop wiregrass, white speargrass, northern canegrass, tussocky sporobolus, sheda grass*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuals</td>
<td>Liverseed grass*, Flinders grass, button grass, summer grasses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 (vertosol), 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

Enterprise

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, rubber vine, 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
