

Brigalow / gidgee scrubs



Landform	Level to gently undulating plains.
Woody vegetation	Gidgee and brigalow scrubs of variable density. Blackbutt and Reid river box associated with brigalow. An understorey of wilga, yellowwood, bauhinia, false sandalwood, currant bush and whitewood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Queensland bluegrass, curly bluegrass, native millet, curly Mitchell grass, buffel grass*, brigalow grass.
Intermediate	Bull Mitchell grass, yabila, silky browntop, windmill grasses.
Non-preferred	Feathertop wiregrass, winged chloris, lovegrasses.
Annuals	Button grass, Flinders grass, native/spider couch.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, creeping bluegrass, Bambatsi panic, Angleton bluegrass, urochloa, leucaena, Caatinga stylo, butterfly pea, Desmanthus.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, parkinsonia, rubbervine, harrisia cactus, mimosa, mother-of-millions.
Soil	Self-mulching grey cracking clay with gilgais to massive dark grey to dark brown clays (vertisol).

Description	Surface: Self-mulching or massive; Surface texture: light clay to medium clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.
Water availability	High
Fertility	Moderately high.
Salinity	Slightly saline in the surface; moderately saline in subsoils.
Sodicity	Moderately sodic in subsoils.
pH	Slightly acidic (pH 6.3) at surface, increasing alkalinity down profile.
Utilisation	30% (native); 35% (sown).
Enterprise	Finishing
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for pasture improvement. • Suitable for cropping in areas that have access to irrigation. • When mixed with other less fertile land types in a paddock, brigalow/gidgee areas are at risk of overgrazing. Land condition should be monitored carefully and management adjusted if necessary to reduce grazing pressure in these areas. • Rotational wet seasons spelling to maintain perennial pasture composition. • Heavy grazing encourages germination of woody species, introduced weeds and development of scalds on massive soils.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding and waterlogging, particularly in gilgais. • Restricted access in wet conditions. • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of these communities have been extensively cleared for pasture development. • Remaining areas of this land type can provide important regional refuge for some species. • Habitat for rare species <i>Sclerolaena everistiana</i>, <i>Quassia bidwillii</i> and <i>Neoroepora buxifolia</i> and the painted honeyeater <i>Grantiella picta</i>.
Regional ecosystems	11.11.19, 11.3.5, 11.4.6, 11.9.5, 9.3.9, 9.4.1, 9.4.3.
Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations	Land Systems (Gunn <i>et al</i> 1967) Humboldt, Ulcanbah, Islay, Blackwater, Somerby, Moray, Wondabah, Kinsale; AMU (DPI 1993) Adelong, Glengallen, Glen Idol, Lonesome, Picardy, Rolleston, Springton, Turkey Creek; Soil Associations (Rogers <i>et al</i> 1999) Egera, Wambiana, Powlathanga, Victoria Downs.