Brigalow / gidgee scrubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>Level to gently undulating plains.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woody vegetation</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected pasture composition</td>
<td>* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>Queensland bluegrass, curly bluegrass, native millet, curly Mitchell grass, buffel grass*, brigalow grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Bull Mitchell grass, yabila, silky browntop, windmill grasses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-preferred</td>
<td>Feathertop wiregrass, winged chloris, lovegrasses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuals</td>
<td>Button grass, Flinders grass, native/spider couch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suitable sown pastures</td>
<td>Buffel grass, creeping bluegrass, Bambatsi panic, Angleton bluegrass, urochloa, leucaena, Caatinga stylo, butterfly pea, Desmanthus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduced weeds</td>
<td>Parthenium, parkinsonia, rubbervine, harrisia cactus, mimosa, mother-of-millions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil</td>
<td>Self-mulching grey cracking clay with gilgais to massive dark grey to dark brown clays (vertosol).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Description

**Surface:** Self-mulching or massive; **Surface texture:** light clay to medium clay; **Subsoil texture:** medium to heavy clay.

### Water availability

- **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

- **Enterprise:** Finishing

### Land use and management recommendations

- 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

- 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

- 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 *Sclerolaena everistiana*, *Quassia bidwillii* and *Neoroepera buxifolia* and the painted honeyeater *Grantiella picta*.

### 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