

Goldfields country – black soils



Landform

Gently undulating to undulating rises.

Woody vegetation

Gum-topped bloodwood very open woodland with or without narrow-leaved ironbark and occasional forest red gum, ghost gum and Reid river box along drainage lines. Patchy understorey of false sandalwood and corkwood wattle.

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*

Preferred

Desert bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, curly bluegrass, buffel grass*, urochloa*, black speargrass, kangaroo grass.

Intermediate

Indian couch*.

Non-preferred

Dark wiregrass, fairy grass.

Annuals

Flinders grass, button grass.

Suitable sown pastures

Buffel grass, urochloa, Angleton bluegrass, Desmanthus, butterfly pea, Caatinga stylos, Caribbean stylos.

Introduced weeds

Chinee apple, rubbervine, parkinsonia, bellyache bush, prickly acacia, prickly mimosa bush, parthenium, calotrope, harrisia cactus, mother-of-millions, Captain Cook bush.

Soil	Self-mulching black, sometimes red and brown, cracking clay (vertisol).
Description	Surface: Self-mulching; Surface texture: light clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.
Water availability	High.
Fertility	High.
Salinity	Commonly saline at depth.
Sodicity	Non-sodic.
pH	Neutral surface to alkaline subsoil.
Utilisation	25%
Enterprise	Growing and finishing.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotational wet seasons spelling to maintain perennial pasture composition. • Whoa boys are required on roads/tracks to control erosion. • Maintain vigorous pasture to prevent weed invasion. • When mixed with other less fertile land types in a paddock, goldfields country black soil areas are at risk of overgrazing. Monitor land condition and adjust management if necessary to reduce grazing pressure. • Use fire to maintain preferred pasture composition and suppress woody species. • Maintain at least 50% ground cover at end of dry season to maximise infiltration and reduce soil erosion.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prone to weed invasion and overgrazing in larger paddocks. • 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"> • Vulnerable to invasion by weed species such as rubbervine, mimosa, and chinee apple.
Regional ecosystems	9.12.1c, 9.12.42.
Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations	Soil Associations (Rogers <i>et al</i> 1999) Amity, Mt Ravenswood, Mingela, Tuckers.