

Goldfields country – red soils



Landform	Gently undulating to undulating rises.
Woody vegetation	Narrow-leaved ironbark and gum-topped bloodwood woodland with occasional forest red gum and Reid river box along drainage lines. Understorey of currant bush and corkwood wattle.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Desert bluegrass, forest bluegrass, curly bluegrass, buffel grass*, urochloa*, cotton panic, black speargrass, kangaroo grass.
Intermediate	Hairy panic, golden beard grass, Indian couch*.
Non-preferred	Feathertop wiregrass, fairy grass, red Natal grass*.
Annuals	Button grass.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, urochloa, creeping bluegrass, butterfly pea, Shrubby stylo, Caribbean stylo, Caatinga stylo.
Introduced weeds	Chinee apple, rubbervine, bellyache bush, calotrope, lantana.

Soil	Brown loam over red clay duplex soil (chromosol).
Description	Surface: Friable where topsoil exists; Surface texture: loam; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.
Water availability	Low
Fertility	Low
Salinity	Non-saline
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Neutral to slightly acid.
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. • 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"> • Narrow-leaved ironbark and bloodwood thickening. • Increased prevalence of currant bush in the understorey. • Generally limited soil erosion hazard. However, past land uses, including mining and grazing, have had a widespread legacy effect in terms of sheet, rill and gully erosion.
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	11.12.1, 9.12.1a, 9.12.1b, 9.12.1d, 9.12.1e, 9.12.1f, 9.12.21.
Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations	Soil Associations (Rogers <i>et al</i> 1999) Dalrymple, Charters Towers.