

Softwood scrub



Landform	Undulating plains and tablelands.
Woody vegetation	Wilga, bottletree, bauhinia and Crow's ash, acacia and other softwood scrub species. Understorey of croton, holly bush, lolly bush and currant bush.
Expected pasture composition	<i>In an uncleared state, there is little grass.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species</i>
Preferred	Buffel grass*, urochloa*.
Intermediate	Brigalow grass.
Non-preferred	Lovegrasses.
Common forbs	Non-preferred species include jack bean.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, green panic, urochloa, creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, butterfly pea, leucaena, Shrubby stylo, Caribbean stylo, Caatinga stylo.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, lantana, rubbervine, chinee apple, bellyache bush.
Soil	Brown clays (vertisols, chromosols), deep red clays (ferrosols) and deep red earths (kandosols) and earthy sands (tenosols).
Description	Surface: Weak self-mulching, scattering of stone (brown clays), or friable (red clays), or sands (red earths). Surface texture: light to medium clay (brown clays), clay loam to light clay (red clays) to sands (red earths); Subsoil texture: medium clay except deep sands.

Water availability	Low (deep sands) to high (brown clays).
Rooting depth	Between 30 to 90 cm (brown clays) to >1 m (red clays).
Fertility	Low to moderate.
Salinity	Nil (red clays), low (brown clays).
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Strongly alkaline (brown clays) to acid (deep sands).

Utilisation 30% (native); 35% (sown).

Enterprise Finishing

Land use and management recommendations

- Most areas of softwood scrub have been cleared and established to improved pastures in the south; remnant areas are present in the north.
- Maintain vegetation belts for wildlife habitats and corridors.
- Lantana, rubbervine, chinee apple and bellyache bush need to be controlled using a combination of herbicides and fire in sown pastures, or targeted use of herbicides in remnant areas.
- Groundwater recharge areas

Land use limitations

- Regrowth of some species.
- Surface sealing soils.
- Limited soil erosion hazard. Prone to sheet, rill and gully erosion along tracks and fence lines and on sloping lands.

Conservation features and related management

- Much of these softwood scrub communities have been extensively cleared for cropping and grazing. Remnant areas provide regional refugia for a wide diversity of flora and fauna species, some species with disjunct distributions.
- Habitat for rare and threatened flora species including *Fontainea fugax*, *Macropteranthes leiocaulis*, *Pomaderris clivicola* and *Cadellia pentastyllis*.
- Some communities include caves that support specialised flora and fauna (particularly bats that use the caves for breeding). The rare species *Alectryon tropicus* and *Atalaya calcicola* are associated with these communities.
- Remnants are subject to invasion by weeds.

Regional ecosystems

2.5.21, 2.9.3a, 7.12.11c, 7.12.13, 7.12.46a-b, 7.12.47a-b, 7.12.48, 7.12.49, 7.12.50, 9.11.8a-b, 9.11.9, 9.12.34, 9.12.8a-b, 9.5.2, 9.8.3, 9.8.7, 11.3.11x1, 11.5.15, 11.7.1x1, 11.9.4a.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Cungelella 2 & 3, Kareela 2, Wharton 2, Bedourie 3, Racecourse 1; AMU (DPI 1993) Duckponds, Glen Idol. Soil Associations (Rogers *et al* 1999) Pentland, Limeview, Rangeside, Rishton.