

Poplar box flats



Landform

Plains associated with past and present drainage lines.

Poplar box flats are associated with major creeks throughout the Border Rivers including wide alluvial plains of the lower Macintyre and Weir rivers.

Woody vegetation

Poplar box woodlands with false sandalwood and wilga understorey. Associated species include whitewood, leopardwood, ironwood, kurrajong, boonaree, mallee box, Blakely's red gum and fuzzy box (in granite/traprock).

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred

Queensland bluegrass, pitted bluegrass, kangaroo grass.

Intermediate

Windmill grass, tall chloris, golden beard grass, hairy panic.

Non-preferred

Corkscrew grass, rough speargrass, granite lovegrass

Annuals

Mueller's saltbush, joyweed.

Common forbs

Common fringe rush (non-preferred).

Suitable sown pastures

Creeping bluegrass, digit grass, tall finger grass, Gatton panic, Rhodes grass, buffel grass (in the west).

Barrel, burr and hybrid disc/strand medics, Caatinga stylo.

Introduced weeds

Noogoora burr, lippia, African lovegrass, African boxthorn, cat's claw creeper.

Soil

Grey and red-brown texture-contrast soils (chromosols, sodosols).

Description

Surface: Hard-setting, frequently gravelly; **Surface texture:** sandy clay loam to clay loam; **Subsoil texture:** medium to heavy clay.

Water availability

Low to medium, PAWC 57–100 mm.

Fertility

Low–medium.

Salinity

High to very high in subsoil.

Sodicity

Variable; non-sodic to strongly sodic from 50 cm depth

pH

Acid in surface and strongly alkaline in subsoil.

Utilisation

30%

Enterprise

Breeding and growing out.

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for grazing of native and sown pastures, forage cropping.
- Maintain maximum ground cover to minimise erosion of dispersive soils and formation of scalds.
- Use spelling and rotational grazing practices to encourage pasture vigour and desirable species, to suppress wiregrasses and obtain fuel loads.
- Grazing and burning practices are important controls of regrowth and woody weeds.

Land use limitations

- Hard-setting surface and impermeable, poorly structured subsoils.
- Low water holding capacity.
- Prone to flooding and seasonal waterlogging.
- Dispersive subsoils prohibit deep ploughing or ripping.
- Cropping limited on low-lying areas due to risk of erosive flooding.

Conservation features and related management

- Land type has been extensively cleared and modified for crops and pastures.
- Extensively cleared or modified by grazing.
- Little or no representation in conservation reserves.
- Woodlands provide important habitat for arboreal mammals and bird species
- Lots of hollow logs provide nesting sites for birds and sanctuary for bats and reptiles
- Habitat for rare and threatened flora species including *Homopholis belsonii*.

Regional Ecosystems

11.4.12.

Land Resource Areas; Land types; Soil associations

Land Resource Area (Thwaites and Macnish 1991) Serpentine, Boogara. Soils associations (Lloyd 1980) Si 2, Hg1–2 Box country. Land type (Maher 1996) 2 Granite/traprock alluvial plains and 3 Traprock/sandstone alluvial plains.