

Blue gum / river red gum flats



Landform	Alluvial plains.
Woody vegetation	Blue gum / river red gum woodland with coolibah and poplar box, and occasional Moreton Bay ash and silver-leaved ironbark.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, desert bluegrass, black speargrass, kangaroo grass, hairy panic, silky browntop.
Intermediate	Curly windmill grass, early spring grass, giant speargrass, windmill grass.
Non-preferred	Dark wiregrass, coolibah grass, rat's tail grass, poverty grass, fairy grass, bottlewasher grasses, slender chloris, red Natal grass*, five-minute grass.
Annual grasses	Button grass, small burr grass, Flinders grass.
Common forbs	Matrush (intermediate).
Suitable sown pastures	Bambatsi panic, buffel grass, creeping bluegrass, Gatton panic, Rhodes grass, Angleton grass, Caatinga stylo, Desmanthus, butterfly pea, and leucaena on deeper well drained areas.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, lantana, castor oil plant, parkinsonia, rubbervine.
Soil	Deep black cracking clays (vertosols).
Description	Surface: Self-mulching, firm or crusting; Surface texture: light clay to medium clay; Subsoil texture: heavy clay.
Water availability	Moderate to high.
Rooting depth	Deep >1 m
Fertility	Moderate to high total nitrogen; moderate to high phosphorus.
Salinity	Moderate (below 0.9 m).
Sodicity	Sodic (below 0.9 m).

pH	Strongly alkaline.
Utilisation	30%
Enterprise	Finishing
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for pasture improvement. • Retain trees on bed and banks of streams. • Retain valuable timber trees. • Caribbean and shrubby stylos should only be planted on areas where the soil surface is sandy. • Disturbance encourages germination of woody plants. • When mixed with other less fertile land types in a paddock, alluvial areas are at risk of overgrazing. • Land condition should be monitored carefully and management adjusted if necessary to reduce grazing pressure in these areas.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding and waterlogging on clay soils. • Restricted access in wet conditions. • Parthenium weed invasion on clay soils. • Erosive flooding in some areas. • Pasture establishment problems on cracking clays. • In coastal areas phosphorus levels are often lower for blue gum on cracking clay soils (serpentine derived).
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large, old gum trees often provide hollows for arboreal marsupials (e.g. greater gliders); nesting sites for raptors (e.g. boobook, barn owls, kites, goshawks), parrots, cockatoos and various other birds, (e.g. dollarbirds, kookaburras, owl nightjars); food trees for koalas and greater gliders, and nectar sources for sugar gliders, nectarous birds, fruit bats and bees. • Seed eating birds (e.g. manikins, finches and doves) make use of the frontage grasses for food and shelter. • Riparian vegetation is an important corridor for migrating wildlife, and areas with steep sandy banks are critical for breeding of the 'bottom-breathing' freshwater turtles. • Watercourse ecology depends heavily on the presence of healthy fringing vegetation, snag provision, and good water quality. • Red gum forests require periodic flooding to exist (about once every 5–20 years). • Fencing off riparian area, with parts of the adjacent floodplain, can prevent overgrazing of young gum seedlings and assist regeneration of the woodlands. • Placing watering points away from the stream will reduce trampling damage, erosion and weed invasion on the riverbanks. • Low disturbance and low usage of fire in these areas is recommended as weed infestations readily establish in flood events.
Regional ecosystems	8.3.6c, 8.3.13c, 8.3.14, 11.3.4, 11.3.25, 11.3.25a-g, 11.3.26, 11.3.27, 11.3.27a-g, 11.3.27x1a-b, 11.3.37, 11.3.38, 11.3.38a, 11.5.17, 12.3.7c.
Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations	Land units (Gunn <i>et al</i> 1967) Mantuan 3, Bogantungan 3; Soil associations (Burgess 2003) German, Thirteenmile.