

Brigalow with blackbutt (Dawson gum)



Landform	Undulating plains, lowlands, downs, low tablelands and hills.
Woody vegetation	Brigalow scrub with emergent blackbutt or yapunyah. Solid patches of blackbutt or yapunyah tend to occur in this land type where there is a high soil salt load. Understorey commonly of false sandalwood, yellowwood or wilga; occasionally leopardwood, sally wattle or currant bush.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Queensland bluegrass, desert bluegrass, forest bluegrass, black speargrass, bull Mitchell grass, kangaroo grass.
Intermediate	Native millet, curly windmill grass, brigalow grass, pitted bluegrass, tall chloris, yabila/star grass, barbwire grass.
Non-preferred	Dark wiregrass, fairy grass, slender chloris, bottlewasher grasses, purple lovegrass.
Annual grasses	Flinders grass, small burr grass.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, Gatton panic, creeping bluegrass, butterfly pea (>90 cm), shrubby stylo, Caatinga stylo, Caribbean stylo.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium.
Soil	A hard-setting, red to brown, texture contrast soil with a sodic B horizon (brown sodosol).
Description	Surface: Hard-setting; Surface texture: sandy clay loam; Subsoil texture: light to medium clay.

Water availability	Low to moderate.
Rooting depth	60 cm
Fertility	Low to moderate total nitrogen; moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	Moderate to high (below 60 cm).
Sodicity	Strongly sodic (below 40 cm).
pH	Strongly alkaline.

Utilisation 30%

Enterprise Finishing

Land use and management recommendations

- Suitable for sown pastures as the light surface texture responds to small and infrequent rainfall.
- Maintain surface cover to reduce sheet erosion, nutrient loss and pasture rundown.
- Erosion of roads and dams where subsoil left exposed.

Land use limitations

- Sodic subsoil.
- Poorly drained.
- Hard-setting surface.
- Regrowth problems.

Conservation features and related management

- The key features of this habitat include a highly diverse reptile community that uses fallen timber, dead trees and exfoliating bark, particularly gecko species (*Gehyra* spp. and *Oedura* spp.), dragons (*Agamidae* spp.) and skinks (*Egernia striolata*, *Morethia boulengeri*).
- A number of woodland bird species declining in south-eastern woodlands such as the bush stone-curlew, squatter pigeon, brown treecreeper and grey-crowned babbler live in these woodlands.
- Retain all fallen timber and dead trees in the land type as these provide valuable habitat for birds and reptiles. Also the gradual decomposition of this timber is important in the nutrient cycling of the ecosystem.
- It is important to maintain ground cover in the form of litter and pasture where possible as the soil B horizon is very sodic, dispersive, erosive and hard to re-pasture.

Regional ecosystems

11.4.7, 11.4.8, 11.9.1, 11.11.16, 11.11.19.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967; Speck *et al* 1968; Gillespie 1991) Disney 3, Humboldt 3 & 6, Skye 4, Pinehill 3, Wharton 4, Thornby 3, Aldis; Agricultural Management Units (Thwaites and Maher 1993) Turkey Creek, College, Glengallan; Soil associations (Burgess 2003; Shields *et al* 1993) Stateschool, Racetrack, Racetrack shallow phase, Hazelbrae, Honeycomb, Winvic.