

Brigalow softwood scrub



Landform	Undulating scrub plains.
Woody vegetation	Brigalow and belah scrub with wilga (decreasing frequency towards the north) or yellowwood (increasing frequency towards the north); and occasional bottle tree, bonewood, Crow's ash, ooline, bauhinia, myall and poplar box. An understorey of currant bush, false sandalwood and limebush.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Desert bluegrass, forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, curly and bull Mitchell grass, kangaroo grass.
Intermediate	Brigalow grass, shot grass, curly windmill grass.
Non-preferred	Fairy grass, wiregrasses.
Common forbs	Saltbushes (intermediate). Roly poly burr, galvanised burr (non-preferred).
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, Gatton panic, Green panic, creeping bluegrass, Desmanthus, butterfly pea, Caatinga stylo, shrubby stylo, Caribbean stylo.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, velvety tree pear.
Soil	Dark brown and grey-brown cracking clay soils (vertosol) or deep, dark brown gradational or uniform soils (dermosols).
Description	Surface: Strong and fine self-mulching; Surface texture: light to medium clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.

Water availability	Moderate to high.
Rooting depth	Deep (below 90 cm).
Fertility	Moderate total nitrogen; moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	Moderate (below 40–90 cm, depending on location).
Sodicity	Low (below 60 cm).
pH	Neutral to alkaline.
Utilisation	30%
Enterprise	Finishing
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for cropping on soils deeper than 45 cm and on slopes less than 4%. • Suitable for pasture improvement.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regrowth • Salinity can affect rooting depth. • Moderate erosion hazard when cultivated. • Surface sealing soils. • Waterlogging.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This land type is very rare in the Fitzroy landscape and the remaining patches of scrub are critical to migratory birds such as yellow robins, grey fantails, varied trillers and rufous fantails. • These scrubs are important habitat for bush turkeys and black-striped wallabies in the dry interior. • Softwood scrubs have a wide range of plant species at their inland limits of distribution. • This land type is very susceptible to fire and therefore a firebreak around its periphery is warranted, especially if adjoining a dense stand of buffel grass. Burning around the scrub margins should only be undertaken when fuels are not completely cured or at the coolest time of the year. Burning should be conducted from the scrub margins out into surrounding vegetation, to reduce fire intensity at the scrub interface. • Velvety tree pear can be a problem in this land type. • Seasonal light grazing of these areas is recommended to knock down the buffel grass but keep the native forbs and shrubs.
Regional ecosystems	11.3.1b, 11.5.16, 11.9.5, 11.9.5a, 11.5.15, 11.11.13, 11.11.14, 11.12.21.
Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations	Land units (Gunn <i>et al</i> 1967; Story <i>et al</i> 1967) Kareela 3 & 4, Cungelella 2 & 3; Agricultural Management Units (Thwaites and Maher 1993) Picardy; Soil associations (Burgess 2003; Shields <i>et al</i> 1993) Turon, Warwick, Norwich, Knockane, Picardy