Cypress pine country



Landform

Undulating to low hills.

Woody vegetation

Cypress pine scrub with occasional silver-leaved ironbark, narrow-leaved ironbark, smooth-barked apple gum and Clarkson's bloodwood. An understorey of myrtle, dysentery bush and wattles.

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred

Black speargrass, cotton panic, hairy panic.

Intermediate

Golden beard grass, pitted bluegrass, tall chloris, barbwire grass.

Non-preferred

Wiregrass (e.g. many-headed, Jericho), bottlewasher grasses, summer grass, poverty grass, lovegrasses.

Annual grasses

Button grass, small burr grass, comet grass.

Common forbs

Pimelea (non-preferred).

Suitable sown pastures

Not suitable for development.

Introduced weeds

Soil

Coarse sand (tenosol).

Description

Surface: Firm to hard-setting with rock outcrops; **Surface texture**: sand to sandy loam; **Subsoil texture:** sand to sandy loam.

Water availability

Low to very low.



Rooting depth

Deep

Fertility

Low total nitrogen; low phosphorus.

Salinity

Low

Sodicity

Non-sodic

Hq

Neutral

Utilisation

20%

Enterprise

Breeding

Land use and management recommendations

The commercial timber species are useful for construction purposes.

Land use limitations

- Low fertility.
- Not suited to clearing or cultivation.
- Low soil moisture storage.

Conservation features and related management

- Extensive areas of cypress pine forests occur on state forest and timber reserves and are uniquely known for their high number of endangered, vulnerable and rare species including death adders, golden-tailed geckoes and yellow-tufted honeyeaters.
- Where there is an understorey or a high density of saplings, cypress pine
 provides day time refuge areas for black-striped wallabies and nightjars, and
 habitat for birds which feed on or near the ground (e.g. spotted quail thrush,
 various thornbills, squatter pigeons, bronze wing pigeons, and grey thrush).
- Cypress pine forests are generally managed for low frequency, low intensity fire regimes which in turn promote a dense fine and coarse litter layer and often multiple vegetation heights.
- These forests support a rich reptile fauna that use important litter and peeling bark of old senescent trees habitat. The multi layered forests also provide habitat for a range of woodland bird species including honeyeaters, hooded robins, yellow robins and grey-crowned babblers.
- Sandy cypress ecosystems are important recharge areas for stream and groundwater.
- This land type is very susceptible to fire damage and therefore a firebreak around its periphery is warranted, especially if adjoining a dense stand of buffel grass.
- Conservation objectives should aim to manage fire in these areas, particularly for retention of fallen litter 'fuel' loads that are important for reptile species.

Regional ecosystems

11.3.18, 11.3.19, 11.5.4, 11.5.5a, 11.10.11, 11.10.9, 11.8.9, 11.12.6b.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967) Playfair 3, Lennox 1 & 2; AMU (DPI 1993) Duckponds.

