

Mountain coolibah woodlands



Landform	Undulating downs.
Woody vegetation	Mountain coolibah open woodland with occasional silver-leaved ironbark and gum-topped bloodwood. Black tea tree occurs along drainage lines. Understorey is generally sparse, but shrubby layer of currant bush, Leichhardt bean, black wattle, corkwood wattle, bauhinia, emu apple, limebush or boonaree may develop in some areas.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Kangaroo grass, black speargrass, Queensland bluegrass, desert bluegrass, forest bluegrass, cotton panic, silky browntop.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, native millet, yabila/star grass, barbwire grass, curly windmill grass.
Non-preferred	White speargrass, feathertop wiregrass, fairy grass, bottlwasher grasses, lovegrasses.
Annual grasses	Flinders grass, button grass.
Suitable sown pastures	Angleton grass, Bambatsi panic, creeping bluegrass, butterfly pea (>90 cm) and Caatinga stylo on deeper soils. Caribbean and shrubby stylos on shallow and rocky soils.
Introduced weeds	Parthenium, mimosa.
Soil	Self-mulching brown or black cracking clay (brown or black vertosol).
Description	Surface: Strong and fine self-mulching, common basaltic fragments; Surface texture: medium clay; Subsoil texture: medium to heavy clay.

Water availability	Low
Rooting depth	Below 45 cm.
Fertility	Low to moderate total nitrogen, low to moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	Low
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Strongly alkaline.
Utilisation	20%
Enterprise	Growing and finishing.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In open areas, fire is only useful to remove older (rank) grass. • Burning should occur only after adequate rainfall; a dry, hot fire could kill the grass.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not usually suited to cropping as soils are too shallow. • Parthenium weed invasion potential.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Springsure area these woodlands are associated with a rare ironbark (<i>Eucalyptus sicilifolia</i>) that has a very restricted distribution. • Woodlands provide good koala and spectacled-hare wallaby habitat. • The pebble-mound mouse is found in this land type. The pebble-mound mouse forms little stone volcano-like craters/mounds and they access entrances to a burrow system under these mounds. • Even though these areas are usually on rocky and high slopes it is possible that they can become overgrazed with severe shrub regrowth occurring at the base of the mountain coolibah trees. • It is important to stock these areas according to their capacity, especially where they occur as small remnants in cultivated paddocks. • If overgrazed these areas can become severely infested with parthenium that could spread down slope during wet seasons.
Regional ecosystems	11.4.13, 11.8.2, 11.8.5, 11.8.5a, 11.9.2, 11.11.11, 11.12.2a.
Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations	Land units (Gunn <i>et al</i> 1967; Story <i>et al</i> 1967) Waterford 1, Oxford 1, Craven 3, Kinsdale 2, Bedourie 1, Girrah 1; AMU (DPI 1993) Orion, Jimbaroo; Soil associations (Burgess 2003) Carfax, Kirkcaldy.