

Narrow-leaved ironbark on ranges



Landform

Mountains and ranges.

Woody vegetation

Narrow-leaved ironbark woodlands with bloodwood and occasional ghost gum. Often an understorey of rosewood, red ash, turkey bush, currant bush, hopbush.

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred

Black speargrass, kangaroo grass, desert bluegrass, hairy panic, finger panic grass, tableland couch, forest bluegrass.

Intermediate

Golden beard grass, barbwire grass, pitted bluegrass, brigalow grass, curly windmill grass.

Non-preferred

Dark wiregrass, many-headed wiregrass, wanderrie grass, bottlenasher grasses, summer grass, fairy grass, five-minute grass, lovegrasses.

Annual grasses

Button grass, small burr grass.

Common forbs

Mulga fern, flannel weeds (non-preferred).

Suitable sown pastures

Oversow with legumes; shrubby and Caribbean stylos.

Introduced weeds

Soil

Shallow rocky soils (rudosols).

Description

Surface: Stoney; **Surface texture:** variable; **Subsoil texture:** no sub-soil.

Water availability

Low

Rooting depth	Less than 45 cm.
Fertility	Low total nitrogen, low to moderate phosphorus.
Salinity	Low
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Neutral

Utilisation 20%

Enterprise Breeding

- Land use and management recommendations**
- Much of this land type is in forestry reserves.
 - Not suitable for clearing.
 - Extensive grazing only.

- Land use limitations**
- Low fertility.
 - Low pasture production.
 - Steep slopes.

- Conservation features and related management**
- This woodland is an important wildlife habitat with a surprisingly wide range of fauna including: koalas that eat narrow-leaved ironbark leaves; whiptail wallabies; possums and gliders that use tree hollows; for skinks, geckoes and dragons that use rough fissured bark; and ground fauna (e.g. painted button-quail) that use good grass cover which also protects slopes and hillsides from erosion.
 - Burning too frequently can result in eucalypts never developing beyond the sapling stage and a reduction in mature trees.
 - Retention of mature trees is necessary, as only long-lived trees will form hollows.
 - Burning should not occur more frequently than once every three years and should take place in winter or just prior to summer rains.
 - To maintain a diversity of habitat for wildlife it is better to burn patches rather than large areas.
 - Where these woodlands are grazed it is better to burn at a paddock level to prevent overgrazing of fresh growth.
 - Similarly with other woodland communities, mosaic burning for regeneration and retention of microhabitats is critical for maintaining species richness.
 - Maintain good ground cover to minimise increases in understorey shrub density (e.g. hobbush, turkey bush, currant bush).

Regional ecosystems 8.10.1a-d, 8.11.7, 11.10.1d, 11.10.5, 11.10.4a-b, 11.10.7, 11.10.7a, 11.12.1, 11.12.1a, 11.12.13.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Bogantungan 1 and 2, Playfair 2, Cotherstone 6, Copperfield 2 and 3; AMU (DPI 1993) Highlands; Soil associations (Burgess 2003) Middlemount.