

Narrow-leaved ironbark with rosewood



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	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
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, bottlewasher grasses, summer grass, five-minute grass, fairy grass, lovegrasses.
Annual grasses	Button grass, small burr grass.
Common forbs	Mulga fern, flannel weeds (non-preferred).
Suitable sown pastures	Unsuitable for sown pastures.
Introduced weeds	
Soil	Shallow stony soils (rudosols).
Description	Surface: variable; 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 15%

Enterprise Breeding

Land use and management recommendations

- Not suitable for clearing.
- Extensive grazing only.
- Dense stands of rosewood limit their own progression to maturity and are suitable for selective logging for fencing material.

Land use limitations

- Low fertility.
- Low pasture production.
- Steep slopes.
- Sandy soils are easily eroded.

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; increased rosewood undergrowth with a loss of grass cover; and a reduction in mature trees.
- 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.

Regional ecosystems

11.11.1.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Bogantungan 1 and 2, Hope 1, Playfair 2, Cotherstone 6; AMU (DPI 1993) Highlands.