### Poplar box with ironbark

**Landform**
- Eucalypt duplex uplands.

**Woody vegetation**
- Poplar box, silver-leaved ironbark or narrow-leaved ironbark woodland, with occasional vine tree, ironwood, ghost gum, Clarkson’s bloodwood. Generally an understorey of false sandalwood, currant bush, Leichhardt bean, scrub leopardwood, quinine tree, and wattles is present.

**Expected pasture composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>Desert bluegrass, black speargrass, kangaroo grass, cotton panic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Golden beard grass, native millet, curly windmill, tall chloris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-preferred</td>
<td>Wiregrasses, purple lovegrass, bottlewasher grasses, five-minute grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuals</td>
<td>Small burr grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common forbs</td>
<td>Flannel weeds (non-preferred).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Suitable sown pastures**
- Buffel grass, creeping bluegrass, shrubby stylo, Caribbean stylo.

**Introduced weeds**
- Wiregrasses, purple lovegrass, bottlewasher grasses, five-minute grass.

**Soil**
- Red or brown hard-setting, loamy surfaced, texture contrast or gradational texture change soil (kandosols or chromosols).

**Description**
- **Surface:** Firm to hard-setting; **Surface texture:** sandy loam to clay loam; **Subsoil texture:** medium clay to medium heavy clay.

**Water availability**
- Low
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rooting depth</th>
<th>60–80 cm.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fertility</td>
<td>Low total nitrogen; low phosphorus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinity</td>
<td>Moderate below 60–90 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodicity</td>
<td>High below 30 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>Neutral to acid.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Utilisation**

20%

**Enterprise**

Breeding and growing.

**Land use and management recommendations**

- Whoa boys are required on roads/tracks to control erosion.

**Land use limitations**

- Low fertility.
- Hard-setting surface soils.
- Highly erodible soils with dispersible subsoils.
- Construction of dams can be a problem due to the tendency of the soil to disperse/tunnel when wet.
- Low moisture storage.
- High levels of regrowth.

**Conservation features and related management**

- Older silver-leaved ironbark trees frequently have hollows favoured by arboreal marsupials (e.g. brushtail possums) and provide nest sites for a wide range of birds (e.g. owlet nightjars, owls and parrots). The deep-fissured bark provides shelter for reptiles, such as tree skinks. Generally the good grass cover provides shelter and food for ground dwelling animals (e.g. spectacled hare-wallabies, rufous bettongs).
- Trees are important in the cycling of nutrients from deeper in the soil profile.
- Patch burning of these woodlands in the late winter months is preferable.
- Some burning prior to summer rains may be required on grazed areas to prevent excessive grazing pressure on new growth.
- Mature trees can easily be burnt through at the base and, as such, frequent burning can lead to loss of these important habitat trees. Care should be taken to extinguish fires that persist at the base of old trees.
- Due to the potential erosion hazard of these duplex soils good ground cover should be retained on slopes and drainage lines.

**Regional ecosystems**

11.4.12, 11.5.3.

**Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations**

Land units (Gunn et al 1967) Pinehill 1, Durrandella 3; AMU (DPI 1993) Lascelles; Soil Associations (Shields et al 1993; Burgess 2003) Adeline, Wieta, Bundoora, Heyford, Foxleigh, Mayfair sandy surfaced variant.