Poplar box / brigalow / bauhinia



Landform

Uplands.

Woody vegetation

Poplar box woodland with brigalow scrub and occasional bauhinia or wilga, silver-leaved ironbark, bloodwood or ghost gum. Understorey of false sandalwood, turkey bush, ironwood, quinine, myrtle, red ash, scrub leopardwood, early flowering black wattle and currant bush.

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred

Black speargrass, cotton panic, desert bluegrass

Intermediate

Pitted bluegrass, brigalow grass, Warrego grass, barbwire grass, shot grass.

Non-preferred

Dark wiregrass, purple lovegrass, woodland lovegrass.

Annual grasses

Small burr grass.

Common forbs

Galvanised burr (non-preferred).

Suitable sown pastures

Buffel grass, creeping bluegrass, shrubby stylo, Caribbean stylo.

Introduced weeds

Parthenium

Soil

Red or yellow texture contrast soil (sodosol).

Description

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

Water availability

Low

Rooting depth

60 cm



Fertility

Moderate total nitrogen, moderate phosphorus.

Salinity

Low

Sodicity

Strongly sodic below 60 cm

Hq

Neutral to acid.

Utilisation

25%

Enterprise

Growing and finishing.

Land use and management recommendations

Land use limitations

- · Highly erodible
- Hard-setting
- Regrowth
- Bulloak patches should not be cleared as they grow on poorer soils that have soil structure problems that result in scalded areas when disturbed.

Conservation features and related management

- These woodlands are structurally and floristically very rich and provide habitat for a wide range of animals. An abundance of woody debris and ground litter provide habitat for reptile species such as legless lizards, skinks, black-headed pythons, tree monitors. Pheasant coucals, speckled warblers, fairy wrens and finches abound. Bauhinia trees are seasonally important for several types of butterflies such as the caper white and 'other' mistletoe butterflies. The good camouflage provides security for the elusive swamp wallaby.
- The poplar box woodlands are likely to have a good body of buffel and native pastures. These pastures need to be maintained and should be carefully grazed to ensure their survival as they are most valuable for wildlife and long-term sustainable production. If thinning spiny shrubs such as Citrus glauca or Capparis species keep as many as possible as these are important for animal and insect habitat especially butterflies.

Regional ecosystems

11.3.17, 11.9.10.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967, Story *et al* 1967) Pinehill 2, Playfair 4, Skye 3 & 4, Barwon 1; AMU (DPI 1993) Glengallan; Soil Associations (Shields *et al* 1993; Burgess 2003) Adeline, Wieta, Bundoora, Heyford, Foxleigh, Mayfair sandy surfaced variant.

