## Serpentine ironbark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>Plains and hills.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woody vegetation</td>
<td>Serpentine ironbark and serpentine bloodwood woodland with grass tree, tree zamia and wattle understorey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected pasture composition</td>
<td>* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>Black speargrass, hairy panic grass, buck spinifex on some slopes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Barbwire grass, pitted bluegrass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-preferred</td>
<td>Wiregrass (e.g. feathertop), white speargrass, lovegrass, slender chloris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual grasses</td>
<td>Not suitable for sown pastures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suitable sown pastures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduced weeds</td>
<td>Giant rat’s tail grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Description</td>
<td>Shallow, stony black or brown non-cracking clay (dermosol). Soils generally have high concentrations of elements such as iron, nickel, magnesium and chromium.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Surface:** Fine granular; **Surface texture:** light clay; **Subsoil texture:** medium clay.
**Water availability**  
Low

**Rooting depth**  
0.2–0.5 m.

**Fertility**  
Low total nitrogen; low phosphorus; high magnesium and heavy metals.

**Salinity**  
Low

**Sodicity**  
Low

**pH**  
Neutral

**Utilisation**  
15%

**Enterprise**  
Breeding and growing.

**Land use and management recommendations**

- Regrowth of wattles, eucalypts and other shrubs.

**Land use limitations**

- Low fertility.
- Potential calcium magnesium imbalance, particularly in lactating cows.
- Stock grazing zamia areas may develop rickets.

**Conservation features and related management**

- These woodlands are floristically very rich with a large number of plants species, that have adapted to the difficult soil conditions (low concentrations of plant nutrients and high concentrations of elements), only occurring in these areas. These include the threatened plant species *Corymbia xanthope, Hakea trineura, Capparis thozetiana, Leucopogon cuspidatus, Neoroepera buxifolia, Pimelea leptospermoides, Pultenaea setulosa, Stackhousia tryonii, Marsdenia brevifolia, Cycas ophiolitica, Bursaria reevesii, Capparis humistrata and Macrozamia serpentine.*

- These woodlands provide habitat for an endemic gecko.

- To prevent degradation of habitat, lightly graze these areas only and avoid regular fires that promote young growth at too frequent an interval for recovery.

**Regional ecosystems**  
11.11.7, 11.11.7a, 11.11.7x1.