Silver-leaved ironbark on duplex

**Landform**

Plains.

**Woody vegetation**

Open woodlands of silver-leaved ironbark, narrow-leaved ironbark, bloodwood, mountain coolibah. False sandalwood, prickly pine, dead finish, desert oak, vine tree and currant bush understorey.

*Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.*

**Expected pasture composition**

- **Preferred**
  - Desert bluegrass, black speargrass, kangaroo grass, Queensland bluegrass, forest bluegrass.

- **Intermediate**
  - Pitted bluegrass, barbwire grass, native millet.

- **Non-preferred**
  - Feathertop wiregrass, dark wiregrass, white speargrass, bottlewasher grasses, five-minute grass.

- **Annuals**
  - Small burr grass, comet grass.

- **Common forbs**
  - Pigweed, flannel weeds (non-preferred).

**Suitable sown pastures**

- Shrubby stylo, Caribbean stylo, creeping bluegrass, buffel grass.

**Introduced weeds**

- Parthenium

**Soil**

Texture contrast soils (sodosols, chromosols).

- **Surface:** Firm to hard-setting (sometimes gravely); **Surface texture:** sandy clay loam to clay loam; **Subsoil texture:** light to medium clay.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water availability</th>
<th>Low</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rooting depth</td>
<td>60–100 cm (variable).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fertility</td>
<td>Low total nitrogen, low phosphorus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinity</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodicity</td>
<td>B horizon strongly sodic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>Neutral to alkaline.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Utilisation**

**Enterprise**

25%

Breeding and growing.

- Tall straight narrow-leaved ironbark useful timber.

**Land use and management recommendations**

- Subsoil very erosive when exposed.
- Highly erodible soils with dispersible subsoils in some cases.
- Regrowth
- Low soil moisture.
- Low soil fertility.
- Hard-setting surface soils.
- Stock grazing zamia areas may develop rickets.

**Conservation features and related management**

- The open ironbark woodlands, as with box woodlands, are widespread and important for wildlife, supporting diverse vertebrate fauna in particular terrestrial mammals (e.g. koala, squirrel glider, common brushtail possum, bandicoots, spectacled hare-wallaby, desert mouse (*Pseudomys desitor*) and reptiles (e.g. the tree skink, *Egernia striolata*, especially favours the fissured bark).
- This habitat supports a very high number of declining woodland bird species (e.g. square-tailed kite, Australian bustard, bush stone-curlew, squatter pigeon, hooded robin, grey-crowned babbler, brown treecreeper).
- It is important to keep good ground cover as this provides shelter and food for many ground dwelling animals.
- Patch burning is ideal as this provides a good balance of fresh pick as a food resource and well-formed tussocks as shelter.
- If cell grazing is practised it is ideal that some areas remain ungrazed as this infrequent, high disturbance has significant impacts on ground fauna dependant on good ground cover.

**Regional ecosystems**

11.3.6, 11.3.39, 11.5.5c, 11.5.9a, 11.8.4, 11.12.2.

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

Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967; Story *et al* 1967) Peak Vale 2, Craven 1, Hope 2, Rutland 3, Moorooloo 1, Cotherstone 3, Hillalong 1; AMU (DPI 1993) Duckponds, Highlands; Soil Associations (Burgess 2003) Mayfair, Red-one.