

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.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
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).
Description	Surface: Firm to hard-setting (sometimes gravelly); Surface texture: sandy clay loam to clay loam; Subsoil texture: light to medium clay.

Water availability	Low
Rooting depth	60–100 cm (variable).
Fertility	Low total nitrogen, low phosphorus.
Salinity	Low
Sodicity	B horizon strongly sodic.
pH	Neutral to alkaline.

Utilisation 25%

Enterprise Breeding and growing.

Land use and management recommendations

Land use limitations

- Tall straight narrow-leaved ironbark useful timber.
- 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 tree creeper).
- 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.