

# Softwood scrub



<b>Landform</b>	Undulating plains.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Bonewood scrub with emergent wilga, bottletree, ooline, bauhinia and Crow's ash. Understorey of croton, holly bush and currant bush.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>In an uncleared state, there is little grass.</i> * Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Buffel grass*
Intermediate	Brigalow grass
Non-preferred	Lovegrasses, speargrass.
Annual grasses	
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Buffel grass, Gatton panic, Green panic, Angleton grass, digit grass, tall finger grass, sabi grass, creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, butterfly pea, leucaena, Caatinga stylo, Desmanthus.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Parthenium, lantana, rubbervine.
<b>Soil</b>	Brown clays (vertisols, chromosols) or deep red clays (ferrosol).
<b>Description</b>	<b>Surface:</b> Weak self-mulching, scattering of stone (brown clays), or friable (red clays); <b>Surface texture:</b> light to medium clay (brown clays), clay loam to light clay (red clays); <b>Subsoil texture:</b> medium clay.
<b>Water availability</b>	Moderate (red clays) to high (brown clays).
<b>Rooting depth</b>	Between 30 to 90 cm (brown clays) to >1 m (red clays).

<b>Fertility</b>	Moderate total nitrogen; moderate phosphorus.
<b>Salinity</b>	Nil (red clays), low (brown clays).
<b>Sodicity</b>	Non-sodic (red clays), non-sodic (below 30 cm) (brown clays).
<b>pH</b>	Strongly alkaline (brown clays); slightly acid surface, acid subsoil (red clays).
<b>Utilisation</b>	30% (sown)
<b>Enterprise</b>	Finishing
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most areas of softwood scrub have been cleared and established to improved pastures.</li> <li>• Retain trees on beds and banks of watercourses.</li> <li>• Maintain vegetation belts for wildlife habitats and corridors.</li> <li>• Lantana and rubbervine need to be controlled using a combination of herbicides and fire.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regrowth of some species.</li> <li>• Surface sealing soils.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This land type is very rare in the Fitzroy landscape and the remaining patches of scrub are critical to migratory birds such as grey fantails, varied trillers and rufous fantails. Sometimes used by fruit-eating pigeons and honeyeaters.</li> <li>• These scrubs provide important habitat and refuge areas for bush turkeys and black-striped wallabies in the dry interior.</li> <li>• Due to the friable red soils, when there is a good litter cover, a good diversity of reptiles can be found such as ornamental snakes, blind snakes and carpet pythons.</li> <li>• Softwood scrubs have a wide range of plant species at their inland limits of distribution.</li> <li>• This land type is very susceptible to fire and therefore a firebreak around its periphery is warranted; especially if adjoining a dense stand of buffel grass.</li> <li>• Burning around scrub margins should only be undertaken when fuels are not completely cured or at the coolest time of the year.</li> <li>• Burning should be conducted from the scrub margins out into surrounding vegetation, to reduce fire intensity at the scrub interface.</li> <li>• It may be necessary to manage overgrazing by wallabies through the use of netting or electric fences (with specifications that prevent harm to other animals).</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	8.2.5, 8.3.1b, 8.12.3c, 8.12.11c, 8.12.16, 8.12.17b, 11.3.11, 11.4.1, 11.8.3, 11.8.6, 11.8.13, 11.9.4, 11.9.4a, 11.9.8, 11.10.4d, 11.10.8, 11.11.5, 11.11.5a, 11.11.18, 11.11.21, 11.12.4, 11.12.4a, 11.12.12, 12.11.4.
<b>Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations</b>	Land units (Gunn <i>et al</i> 1967; Story <i>et al</i> 1967) Cungelella 2 & 3, Kareela 2, Wharton 2, Bedourie 3, Racecourse 1; AMU (DPI 1993) Duckponds, Glen Idol.