

Spotted gum ridges



Landform

Mountains and ranges.

Woody vegetation

Spotted gum forests or woodlands associated with narrow-leaved ironbark, lemon scented gum, and lancewood. An understorey of wattles, zamia, and red ash may be present.

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred

Black speargrass, kangaroo grass, hairy panic, desert bluegrass.

Intermediate

Golden beard grass, pitted bluegrass, barbwire grass, windmill grasses.

Non-preferred

Many-headed wiregrass, dark wiregrass, wanderrrie grass, bottlewasher grasses, summer grass, red Natal grass*, fairy grass, lovegrasses, five-minute grass.

Annual grasses

Small burr grass, armgrass.

Suitable sown pastures

Shrubby stylo.

Introduced weeds

Soil

Shallow rocky texture contrast or gradational soils (tenosols or kandosols).

Description

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

Water availability

Very low.

Rooting depth

Less than 45 cm.

Fertility Low total nitrogen; very low phosphorus.

Salinity Low

Sodicity Non-sodic

pH Neutral to acid.

Utilisation 15%

Enterprise Breeding and growing.

Land use and management recommendations

- The commercial timber species are useful for construction purposes.

Land use limitations

- Steep slopes.
- Shallow soil.
- Rocky surface.

Conservation features and related management

- Spotted gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) dry sclerophyll forests occur near hills and ranges, with almost homogenous stands of spotted gum often occurring in State forests and timber reserves.
- At a landscape perspective, these forests now form the backbone of the largest stands of intact remnant habitat across the Brigalow Belt – all along the Expedition/Leichhardt/Dawson ranges.
- These extensive spotted gum forests provide valuable resources for a suite of forest dependent fauna including possums and gliders (e.g. yellow-bellied glider, greater glider), koalas, forest owls (e.g. powerful owl), raptors (e.g. red goshawk), microbats (e.g. little pied bat), and insectivorous birds. Large fallen trees are good habitat for ground dwelling animals, and coral snakes and bandy-bandy snakes are also found here. This land type is seasonally important as a nectar/pollen source for bees.
- Previously, forest management practices, including tree thinning and high frequency fire regimes, often led to evenly aged tree stands with low grass and coarse ground litter.
- In recent years, due to the high number of rare and threatened species dependent on spotted gum dominated dry sclerophyll forests in Queensland, there has been much focus on the retention of over mature (senescent) trees that are critical habitat for hollow dependent species and mosaic burning for ground fauna.
- On-going management should identify and retain habitat trees, including yellow-bellied glider feed trees, and recognise the microhabitat requirements of fauna species including the promotion of ground cover, retention of fallen log cover, and mosaic burning for species regeneration.

Regional ecosystems 8.11.8a, 8.12.7a-c, 11.5.9d, 11.7.5, 11.8.1, 11.10.1, 11.10.13, 11.10.13a, 11.10.2, 11.11.3, 11.11.4a, 11.12.6, 11.12.6a.

Land units; Agricultural management unit; Soil associations Land units (Gunn *et al* 1967, Story *et al* 1967) Bogantungan 1 & 2, Hope 1, Playfair 2, Cotherstone 6; AMU (DPI 1993) Highlands.

