

Bastard scrub



Landform	Ridge crests; broad ridges; some scarp areas; upper, mid and lower slopes of undulating rises and low hills. Commonly slopes 3–10%, occasionally steep 10–25% slopes, and in minor areas as steep as 45%.
Woody vegetation	Open forest to closed scrubs of softwood species (vines, bottle trees, white cedar, crow's ash, figs) and / or hoop pine and / or narrow-leaved ironbark open woodland. Other species may occur include Burdekin plum, Yarraman ironbark, gum-topped box, spotted gum, grey gum, brush box, swamp mahogany, Queensland blue gum. <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Expected pasture composition	
Preferred	Black speargrass, Queensland bluegrass, kangaroo grass, hooky grass, leafy panic.
Intermediate	Slender chloris, slender rat's tail grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. dark), purple lovegrass, reedgrass.
Legumes	Woolly glycine, glycine pea.
Suitable sown pastures	Rhodes grass, creeping bluegrass, green panic, Gatton panic, digit grass, tall finger grass, shrubby stylo, leucaena on deeper soils.
Introduced weeds	
Soil	Red and brown non-cracking clays; deep (euchrozems), or shallow gravelly or snuffy (krasnozems) red clay loams; and red sandy loams (red earths).
Description	Surface: firm, loose snuffy or friable, hard-setting; Surface texture: sandy loam to clay loam to light clay; Subsoil texture: sandy clay loam to light medium to medium heavy clay.
Water availability	Very low (red earths) to low (krasnozems); moderate (red clays) PAWC.

Drainage	Moderate (red clays) to well drained (krasnozems, red earths, euchrozems).
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth 60–90 (red clays and earths), >100 cm (krasnozems, euchrozems).
Fertility	Medium. Low (red clays, red earths) to moderate (euchrozems) to high (krasnozems, red earths) nitrogen; very low to low or moderate phosphorus; moderate to very high potassium.
Salinity	Non-saline (krasnozems, euchrozems); very low throughout (red earths); moderate salinity below 70 cm (red clays).
Sodicity	Non-sodic (krasnozems, red earths, euchrozems); sodic to strongly sodic (red clays).
pH	Alkaline (red clays) or acid to neutral soil reaction trend.
Utilisation	30% (sown)
Enterprise	Breeding and fattening.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures and cropping. • Maintenance of effective ground cover (>70%), use of minimum tillage and conservative stocking practices (spelling pastures, flexible stocking rates) are important to retain organic matter, maintain soil structure, reduce runoff and minimise risk of erosion. • Retain timber on ridges, in drainage lines and at the base of hills to lower watertable and control salinity. • Burning is recommended every 4–6 years to control regrowth (spotted gum, ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivation can cause surface structure break down (intensive) or hard-setting surfaces which affect crop establishment. Establishment of small seeded crops and pastures difficult due to hard-setting and rapidly dry surface. • Snuffy powdery surfaces can become water repellent, affecting crop establishment and growth, and are subject to wind erosion. Moderate to high or very high (red clays) erosion hazard. Minor occurrences of secondary salinity on lower slopes.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat for rare and threatened flora and fauna. • Remnants are threatened by weed invasion and fire on their margins. • The use of fire breaks and cool season burns reduce this risk. • Seasonal light grazing will reduce fuel loads. • Remnant scrubs are used by a range of birds, reptiles and marsupials (wallabies in particular) for habitat and use the surrounding grassy woodlands or cleared paddocks as feed areas. • Natural regeneration can be encouraged to develop connectivity with other areas of remnant vegetation.
Regional ecosystems	12.12.17.
Land resource area	Volcanic Uplands, Red Tablelands.