

# Blue gum on cracking clay



<b>Landform</b>	Broad, low sloping floodplains on valley floors.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Tall open forest of Queensland blue gum and Moreton Bay ash with occasional broad-leaved apple, silver-leaved ironbark, rough-barked apple and broad-leaved ironbark. Understorey usually absent.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>Southern black speargrass pastures.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Black speargrass, forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, scentedtop, hairy panic.
Intermediate	Spring grass, liverseed (urochloa) grass, bamboo speargrass, umbrella grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. dark), slender chloris.
Legumes	Woolly glycine, rhynchosia, glycine pea, creeping tick trefoil.
Annual grasses	Small burr grass.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, Angleton grass, leucaena, butterfly pea, Caatinga stylo, Desmanthus.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Chinese elm, broad-leaved pepper tree, cat's claw creeper.
<b>Soil</b>	Deep (>150 cm) dark cracking clays (black earths, vertosols), brown sandy loams (earthy sands, tenosols) and sandy clay loams (prairie, dermosols).
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Friable, sandy; weakly self-mulching, or hard-setting; <b>Surface texture:</b> sandy clay loam to medium clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> sandy loam to light medium clay to medium heavy clay.
Features	Some calcium carbonate and iron/manganese nodules and segregations may be present in prairie and black earths subsoils. Surface crust forms after rain on prairie soils.

<b>Water availability</b>	Low (earthy sands) to moderate (prairie) to high (black earths) PAWC.
<b>Drainage</b>	Rapidly (earthy sands), well (prairie) and moderately (black earths) drained.
<b>Rooting depth</b>	Effective rooting depth >100 cm (earthy sands, prairie, black earths).
<b>Fertility</b>	Moderate; low nitrogen; variable (earthy sands), high (prairie), very high (black earths) phosphorus; variable (earthy sands), moderate to high potassium.
<b>Salinity</b>	Non-saline (earthy sands) or very low (prairie) to low (black earths) surface salinity; moderate below 80–100 cm (black earths).
<b>Sodicity</b>	Non-sodic at the surface; slightly sodic or sodic below 80 cm (black earths) to strongly sodic subsoils (prairie).
<b>pH</b>	Slightly acidic (pH 6.0) at surface; increasing to very slightly (prairie) or moderately alkaline (black earths) at depth. Neutral to alkaline throughout (earthy sands).
<b>Utilisation</b>	30%
<b>Enterprise</b>	Fattening
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures and cropping (not if soil &lt;45 cm).</li> <li>• Use of minimum tillage and maintenance of effective ground cover (&gt;50%) 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.</li> <li>• Retain timber on ridges, in drainage lines and at changes of slope at base of hills to lower watertable and control salinity. Use electric fences rather than fixed fences on flood prone areas.</li> <li>• Burning is recommended every 3–4 years to control regrowth (ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prone to flooding, streambank erosion and waterlogging. Moderate to high erosion hazard.</li> <li>• Low moisture availability on rapidly drained soils; poor internal drainage on lower slopes of black earth soils; and hard-setting, surface sealing clays.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While blue gum is common, few extensive, intact remnants remain. The large hollows often found in large, old blue gums are important nesting sites and habitat for birds and marsupials.</li> <li>• Many of the freshwater wetlands in the inland Burnett are associated with this land type.</li> <li>• Blue gum regenerates readily in the absence of grazing and regular fire.</li> <li>• Regrowth can be encouraged by allowing remnants to expand and establish connection with other areas of remnant vegetation.</li> <li>• Regrowth has hardwood potential.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	11.3.4, 11.3.27a-c.
<b>Land resource area</b>	Floodplains.