

Blue gum on granite



Landform	Undulating rises to rolling hills.
Woody vegetation	Open forest to woodland of Queensland blue gum, silver-leaved ironbark and narrow-leaved ironbark. Understorey of wattle and minor beefwood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>Southern black speargrass pastures.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Black speargrass, red Natal grass*, silky umbrella grass, native millet.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass grass, bottlewasher grasses, slender chloris, barbwire grass.
Non-preferred	Golden beard grass, comet grass.
Legumes	Emu foot, glycine pea.
Suitable sown pastures	Creeping bluegrass, fine stem stylo, shrubby stylo, Wynn cassia.
Introduced weeds	Blue heliotrope.
Soil	Shallow to moderately deep texture contrast soils.
Description	Surface: Hard-setting; Surface texture: loamy sand to sandy clay loam; Subsoil texture: sandy clay to medium clay.
Features	Stone free. Bleached subsurface layer, mottled subsoils.
Water availability	Low (yellow) to high (red) PAWC.
Drainage	Poorly drained (yellow) to moderately drained (red).
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth 20 cm (yellow) to 60 cm (red).
Fertility	Low; low to moderate nitrogen, very low phosphorus, low to moderate to high potassium.

Salinity	Low to non-saline.
Sodicity	Non-sodic (red), strongly sodic below 50 cm (yellow).
pH	Alkaline soil reaction trend, slightly acidic at surface, increasing alkalinity (pH 6.0–7.5) upper subsoils and moderately alkaline (7.8–8.6) in lower subsoils.
Utilisation	30%
Enterprise	Breeding and stores.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures, short-term cropping only on red soils. • Maintenance of effective ground cover (>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. • Retain timber on stony ridges and at changes of slope at base of hills to control erosion (particularly tunnel erosion). • Burning is recommended every 2-3 years to control regrowth (blue gum, ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow effective rooting depth and poor internal drainage (yellow). • Low fertility. • Low PAWC will restrict dryland crop growth. • Hard-setting surface affects infiltration and cultivation. • Small seeded crops and pasture difficult to establish due to rapid drying and sealing of sandy surface. • Moderate erosion hazard on low to moderate slopes (red). • Very high erosion hazard and particularly prone to tunnel erosion (yellow).
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensively cleared for native pasture in some areas; relatively intact in others. • These are generally grassy woodlands that provide habitat for larger marsupials. • Hollow-bearing habitat trees are important nesting sites for birds and arboreal mammals. • Landscape health can be enhanced through appropriate fire regimes, grazing management and allowing regrowth to develop into effective wildlife corridors.
Regional ecosystems	12.12.23, 12.12.12.
Land resource area	Granite Hills.