

Box on clay



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Landform | Backplains and levee backslopes of alluvial plains and creek flats. |
| Woody vegetation | Tall open woodland to open forest of poplar box, gum-topped box, broad-leaved apple. Understorey often absent. |
| Expected pasture composition | <i>Southern black speargrass pastures.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i> |
| Preferred | Black speargrass, forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, scentedtop, paspalum*. |
| Intermediate | Pitted bluegrass, barbwire grass. |
| Non-preferred | Wiregrasses (e.g. dark). |
| Legumes | Woolly glycine, rhynchosia, glycine pea. |
| Annual grasses | Small burr grass. |
| Suitable sown pastures | Creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, Angleton grass, Bambatsi panic, leucaena, butterfly pea, Caatinga stylo, Desmanthus. |
| Introduced weeds | |
| Soil | Deep (>150 cm) dark grey or brown cracking clays (black earths). |
| Description | Surface: Self-mulching; Surface texture: medium clay; Subsoil texture: medium heavy clay. |
| Features | Some small quantities of calcium carbonate and iron/manganese nodules and segregations. |
| Water availability | High PAWC. |
| Drainage | Moderate |

| | |
|---|---|
| Rooting depth | Effective rooting depth >100 cm. |
| Fertility | Low to moderate; low nitrogen; variable phosphorus; moderate potassium. |
| Salinity | Low below 80 cm. |
| Sodicity | Slightly sodic below 80 cm. |
| pH | Slightly acidic to neutral at surface; increasing to moderately alkaline at depth. |
| Utilisation | 30% |
| 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. • Use of minimum tillage and 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 in drainage lines and at changes of slope at base of hills to lower watertable and control salinity. • Avoid trafficking when wet to reduce soil compaction. • Burning is recommended every 2–3 years to control regrowth (poplar box, currant bush, false sandalwood) and to enhance preferred pasture species. |
| Land use limitations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to periodic flooding and waterlogging. • Imperfect internal drainage on low slopes and moderate erosion hazard. • Low fertility except for potassium. |
| Conservation features and related management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large poplar box trees often have hollows that are home to arboreal marsupials and provide nest sites for a wide range of birds such as owllet nightjars, owls and parrots. • Generally the good grass cover provides shelter and food for ground dwelling animals such as wallabies and rufous bettongs. |
| Regional ecosystems | 12.3.10. |
| Land resource area | Floodplains. |