

# Gum-topped box



<b>Landform</b>	Slightly elevated level to gently undulating relict floodplains, backplains and slightly higher terraces of major streams.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Open forest to woodland of gum-topped box, narrow-leaved ironbark and poplar box, with scattered rusty gum and Queensland blue gum. Occasional understorey of wattles, myrtle tree and beefwood.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>Wiregrass – pitted bluegrass pastures.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.</i>
Preferred	Black speargrass, forest bluegrass, barbwire grass, kangaroo grass, pitted bluegrass grass.
Intermediate	Spider grass (native couch), bottlewasher grasses, umbrella grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. dark), slender chloris.
Legumes	Woolly glycine, emu foot, creeping tick trefoil.
Annual grasses	Small burr grass.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	None suitable.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	
<b>Soil</b>	Moderately deep (120 cm) yellow, grey or brown texture contrast soils (solodics).
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Hard-setting; <b>Surface texture:</b> sandy loam to clay loam; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> sandy clay to medium to heavy clay.
Features	Some surface quartz gravel, generally stone free. Small amounts of calcium carbonate and iron/manganese nodules in subsoils.
Water availability	Low to moderate PAWC.
Drainage	Poorly drained subsoils.
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth 15–20 cm.

<b>Fertility</b>	Low; low nitrogen, very low to moderate phosphorus, low to high potassium.
<b>Salinity</b>	Moderate to high salinity below 20 cm.
<b>Sodicity</b>	Sodic to strongly sodic subsoils.
<b>pH</b>	Acid (pH 6.5) to alkaline (pH 8.5–9.0) soil reaction trend (solodics).
<b>Utilisation</b>	25%
<b>Enterprise</b>	Breeding
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures.</li> <li>• 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>• Do not cultivate if surface soil is less than 45 cm deep.</li> <li>• Retain timber in drainage lines and at changes of slope at base of hills to control erosion.</li> <li>• Burning is recommended every 2–3 years to control regrowth (gum-topped box, ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject to periodic flooding and waterlogging.</li> <li>• Shallow effective rooting depth often due to impermeable and saline subsoils.</li> <li>• Soil salinity and or sodicity may affect plant growth.</li> <li>• When cultivated, surface sealing occurs after rain affecting crop establishment.</li> <li>• Hard setting surface affects infiltration and cultivation.</li> <li>• High erosion hazard, particularly prone to scalding and gully erosion.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remnant woodlands are important habitat for gliders, possums, koalas, tree creepers, speckled warblers, powerful owls and ground foraging birds.</li> <li>• These woodlands provide important corridors through the landscape for both resident and dispersing fauna.</li> <li>• Frequent fires reduce the shrubby understorey, but variable fire regimes encourage mosaics.</li> <li>• Heavy grazing reduces fuel loads and exposes the soil surface to erosion.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	11.5.20, 11.9.13, 11.11.10a, 11.12.2b, 12.8.14a, 12.9-10.3.
<b>Land resource area</b>	Terraces and Relict Alluvial Plains.