

Narrow-leaved ironbark and wattles



Landform	Crests and slopes of steep hills and mountains.
Woody vegetation	Woodland to open forest of narrow-leaved ironbark, silver-leaved, bloodwood, and spotted gum. If understorey present often wattles, rosewood, whitewood or beefwood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>Southern black speargrass pastures.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Black speargrass, barbwire grass, pitted bluegrass, native oatgrass, kangaroo grass.
Intermediate	Many-headed grass, kerosene grass, bottlewasher grasses.
Non-preferred	White speargrass.
Legumes	Narrow-leaved indigo, glycine pea.
Suitable sown pastures	Oversow with shrubby stylo.
Introduced weeds	Lantern bush, blue heliotrope.
Soil	Shallow (<50 cm) loamy soils and shallow to moderately deep (<120 cm) texture contrast, gravelly soils.
Description	Surface: Hard-setting; Surface texture: loamy sand to sandy clay loam to clay loam; Subsoil texture: loamy sand to medium to medium heavy clay.
Features	Lithosols have very stony (surface cobble and gravel) shallow profiles. Often conspicuously bleached subsurface soils.
Water availability	Low to moderate PAWC.
Drainage	Well drained (lithosol) to poorly (texture contrast).
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth 20–40 cm.

Fertility	Low; low nitrogen, low (texture contrast) to moderate (lithosol) phosphorus, moderate potassium.
Salinity	Non-saline.
Sodicity	Non-sodic (lithosol); sodic (texture contrast) subsoils.
pH	Acidic surface (pH 5.5–6.5); neutral (pH 6.0–7.5) to alkaline subsoils (pH 7.8–8.6).
Utilisation	20%
Enterprise	Breeding
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures. • Maintenance of effective ground cover (>60%) 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 and at changes of slope at base of hills to lower watertable and control erosion (particularly tunnel erosion). • Burning is recommended every 2–3 years to control regrowth (ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow effective rooting depth, very stony lithosol profiles. • Low PAWC, low to very low fertility. • Small seeded pasture difficult to establish due to rapid drying and sealing of sandy surface. • Narrow moisture range for successful cultivation. • Root development affected by impermeable and saline subsoils. • High erosion hazard and prone to scalding, gully and tunnel erosion.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This woodland is an important wildlife habitat with a surprisingly wide range of fauna. • Numerous tree hollows are home to possums and gliders. • The rough fissured bark provides good reptile habitat, for skinks and geckoes. • A good grass cover protects slopes and hillsides from erosion and provides habitat for ground fauna such as the painted button-quail. • Burning should not occur more frequently than once every three years and should take place in winter or just prior to summer rains. To maintain a diversity of habitat for wildlife it is better to burn patches rather than large areas. • Where these woodlands are grazed it is better to burn at a paddock level to prevent overgrazing of fresh growth. • The sandy soils are readily eroded.
Regional ecosystems	11.7.4c, 11.12.1a, 12.5.1a, 12.7.1, 12.7.2, 12.11.19, 12.12.25.
Land resource area	Ranges.