

Silver-leaved ironbark on cracking clay



Landform	Undulating plains to rolling hills.
Woody vegetation	Open forest or woodland of silver-leaved ironbark and Queensland blue gum with occasional narrow-leaved ironbark, variable-barked bloodwood. Understorey is usually 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	Native millet, hairy panic, barbwire grass, slender chloris.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. dark).
Legumes	Woolly glycine, rhynchosia, glycine pea.
Annual grasses	Small burr grass.
Suitable sown pastures	Creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, Caatinga stylo, Desmanthus, leucaena on deep soils.
Introduced weeds	
Soil	Shallow to moderately deep to deep dark cracking clays (black earths).
Description	Surface: self-mulching to weakly self-mulching and crusting; Surface texture: light to medium clay; Subsoil texture: light sandy clay loam to medium clay.
Features	Some iron, manganese and calcium carbonate segregations present in black earth soils. Weathered basalt present at 30 cm depth in shallow soils.
Water availability	Moderate to high PAWC.
Drainage	Moderately to well drained.

Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth variable 30 cm to >100 cm.
Fertility	High; moderate to high nitrogen; low or variable phosphorus; moderate to very high potassium.
Salinity	Non-saline or very low to low throughout.
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Alkaline soil reaction trend. Strongly alkaline (pH 9.5) >60 cm depth in some soils.
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 on ridges, in drainage lines and at changes of slope at base of hills to lower watertable and control salinity. • 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"> • Narrow moisture range for successful cultivation. • Surface crusting may occur with continual cultivation. • Moderate to high erosion hazard, high risk of gully erosion where water is concentrated. • Shallow soils and rockiness may restrict cultivation and harvesting of specific crops. Rock picking may be required to grow crops. • Effective rooting depth reduced by weathered rock.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These basalt ridges are associated with several significant eucalypts and these communities have outstanding fauna value, especially for arboreal hollow dwellers. • The health of the landscape can be enhanced through appropriate fire regimes, grazing management and allowing regrowth to develop into effective wildlife corridors.
Regional ecosystems	12.12.8.
Land resource area	Basalt Rises.