

Softwood scrub



Landform	Mid to upper slopes and crests of gently sloping remnant plateaus and near scarp margins; slopes below scarps; and low hills adjacent to plateau remnants.
Woody vegetation	Softwood scrub (vines, bottle trees, white cedar, crows ash, figs) and open forest to open woodland of narrow-leaved ironbark in association with Queensland blue gum, blackbutt, spotted gum, Gympie messmate, grey gum, tallowwood or Yarraman ironbark depending on landscape position. Occasional bloodwoods, rusty gums, she-oaks and silver-leaved ironbarks with an understorey of wattles, red ash and dogwood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Green panic*
Intermediate	
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses
Legumes	Woolly glycine, glycine pea.
Suitable sown pastures	Green panic, Rhodes grass, buffel grass, Gatton panic, digit grass, tall finger grass, shrubby stylo, Caatinga stylo, Wynn cassia, siratro, leucaena.
Introduced weeds	Lantana
Soil	Shallow (red earths) to deep red clay loams (krasnozems) and brown non-cracking clays (prairie soils).
Description	Surface: loose to crusting, when firm can be loose when dry; Surface texture: loam to clay loam to light clay; Subsoil texture: clay loam to light clay to medium clay.
Features	Ironstone and gravel present in small (krasnozems) and large (red earth) amounts in subsoils. Occasional gravel in prairie soils.
Water availability	Low (red earths) to moderate PAWC (krasnozems, prairie).

Drainage	Well drained (krasnozems, prairie, red earths).
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth >60 cm (red earths) >100 cm (prairie, krasnozems).
Fertility	Moderate to very high; moderate (krasnozems) to high (prairie) to very high (red earths) nitrogen, moderate (krasnozems, red earths) to very high (prairie) phosphorus, high (krasnozems) to very high (prairie, red earths) potassium.
Salinity	Very low saline surface, non-saline below (krasnozems, prairie, red earths).
Sodicity	Non-sodic (krasnozems, prairie, red earths).
pH	Moderately acidic (pH 5.5 to 6.0, red earths) to slightly acidic (pH 6.0–6.5, krasnozems) to neutral (pH 7.0, prairie) at surface; increasing acidity (pH 5.0–5.5 red earths, 6.0 krasnozems) and increasing alkalinity (pH >8.5 below 50 cm, prairie) down profile.
Utilisation	30% (sown)
Enterprise	Fattening
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing of native and improved pastures and cropping, short term only on prairie soils. • 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.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low plant available water; shallow effective rooting depth; stoniness of subsoils; acidic soils. • Moderate to high erosion hazard due to low to moderate erodibility and moderate to steep slopes.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few scrub remnants remain, and those that do are small and isolated. • Habitat for rare and threatened flora and fauna. • Remnants are threatened by weed invasion and fire on their margins. • The use of fire breaks and cool season burns reduce this risk. • Natural regeneration should be encouraged to develop connectivity with other areas of remnant vegetation.
Regional ecosystems	11.5.15, 11.9.4a, 11.9.4c, 11.11.5a, 12.5.1b, 12.5.13, 12.8.13, 12.8.21, 12.12.18, 12.5.13a-c.
Land resource area	Undulating Plains; Red Tablelands.