

Spotted gum ridges



Landform	Crests and hillslopes of undulating rises to low hills to mountains.
Woody vegetation	Spotted gum open forest or woodland frequently associated with narrow-leaved ironbark. Other species that may occur include bloodwoods, rusty gum, and gum-topped box. An understorey may include red ash, currant bush, grevilleas and wattles.
Expected pasture composition	<i>Wiregrass – pitted bluegrass pastures.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species.</i>
Preferred	Black speargrass, barbwire grass, pitted bluegrass, native oatgrass, kangaroo grass.
Intermediate	Erect kerosene grass, kerosene grass, silkyheads.
Non-preferred	Dark wiregrass, five-minute grass, comet grass.
Legumes	Rattlepods, glycine pea.
Suitable sown pastures	None suitable.
Introduced weeds	Lantern bush.
Soil	Very shallow to shallow (<50 cm) sandy, loamy lithosols.
Description	Surface: Loose to hard-setting; Surface texture: loamy sand; Subsoil texture: loamy sand to weathered bedrock.
Features	Very stony profiles, with surface cobble and gravel, frequent rock outcrops.
Water availability	Low PAWC.
Drainage	Well drained.
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth 20 cm.
Fertility	Low; very low nitrogen, moderate phosphorus, moderate potassium.

Salinity	Low
Sodicity	Non-sodic.
pH	Acid (pH 5.8–6.5) soil reaction trend.
Utilisation	20%
Enterprise	Breeding
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for light grazing of native 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 to lower watertable and control erosion. • Burning is recommended every 2–3 years to control regrowth (ironbarks, wattles, red ash) and to enhance preferred pasture species.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow effective rooting depth, very stony profiles. • Low PAWC, very low fertility. • Very high erosion hazard.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These extensive spotted gum forests provide valuable resources for a suite of forest dependent fauna including possums and gliders, koalas, forest owls, microbats, and insectivorous birds. The more enigmatic species include the yellow-bellied glider and the greater glider, the powerful owl, the red goshawk, and little pied bat. • Coral snakes and bandy-bandy snakes are found in this land type. • This land type is seasonally important as a nectar/pollen source for bees. • Large fallen trees are good habitat for ground dwelling animals. • Areas that have been extensively managed for timber have been modified through selective thinning and frequent fire resulting in even aged stands with minimal habitat trees and poor stand succession. • Retaining adequate numbers of habitat trees is important for forest health and biodiversity. • The careful use of fire (especially following disturbance such as thinning or harvesting) allows forest regeneration and can be pro-actively used to promote biodiversity values within the land type and across the landscape.
Regional ecosystems	11.7.5, 11.7.6, 11.10.1, 11.11.4a, 11.12.6, 12.12.10.
Land resource area	Ranges.