

Tall open forest on snuffy soils



Landform	Upper slopes and crests of plateau remnants and some low rises.
Woody vegetation	Closed softwood scrub associated with open forest of narrow-leaved ironbark, grey gum, tallowwood, Gympie messmate and Yarraman ironbark with occasional bloodwoods, spotted gums and understorey of wattles and red ash.
Expected pasture composition	<i>Southern black speargrass pastures.</i> * Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Black speargrass, Queensland bluegrass, kangaroo grass, hooky grass, leafy panic.
Intermediate	Slender chloris, slender rat's tail grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. dark), purple lovegrass, reedgrass.
Legumes	Woolly glycine, glycine pea.
Suitable sown pastures	Rhodes grass, creeping bluegrass, green panic, digit grass, tall finger grass, leucaena, shrubby stylo, Caatinga stylo, Wynn cassia.
Introduced weeds	Lantana.
Soil	Generally deep (>120 cm) reddish brown gradational clay loams soils (krasnozem).
Description	Surface: Snuffy, loose to moderately hard-setting; Surface texture: sandy loam to light clay; Subsoil texture: light to medium clay.
Features	Surface becomes water repellent when dry and powdery (snuffy). Ironstone gravel frequently present. Stone free.
Water availability	Low PAWC.
Drainage	Well drained.

Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth >100 cm.
Fertility	Moderate to high; moderate to high nitrogen; low phosphorus; moderate to high potassium.
Salinity	Non-saline
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Acid soil reaction trend (pH 5.0–6.5).
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. • Maintenance of effective ground cover (>70%), use of minimum tillage 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 in drainage lines to lower watertable and control salinity. • Burning is recommended every 4–6 years to control regrowth (spotted gum, ironbarks, wattles) and to enhance preferred pasture species.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low PAWC will restrict dryland crop growth. • Surface dries out easily, particularly when cultivated, becoming powdery and water repellent which may affect crop establishment and growth. • Disturbed soils are particularly prone to wind erosion. • Moderate to high erosion hazard.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This land type has been moderately developed for grazing in some areas but there are many intact remnants in steeper country. These provide valuable corridors through the landscape for transitional and migratory birds and mammals and are an important source of timber. These remnants support sugar gliders, arboreal marsupials, smaller macropods, hollow breeding birds, birds of prey and microbats. • Retention of ground litter provides important habitat for ground dwelling reptiles and is important in preventing erosion on the snuffy red soils.
Regional ecosystems	12.5.1,12.5.6c.
Land resource area	Red Tablelands.