

Poplar box on duplex soils



Landform	Undulating; slopes 0.5–2.5%.
Woody vegetation	Poplar box, belah, wilga, brigalow, false sandalwood, limebush, scrub leopardwood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Desert bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, cotton panic, kangaroo grass, buffel grass*.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, slender chloris, golden beard grass, curly windmill grass, native millet, early spring grass, box grass.
Non-preferred	Granite lovegrass, five-minute grass, wiregrasses (Jericho, purple, dark).
Legumes	Glycine pea, slender tick trefoil, emu foot, native sensitive plant.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass, creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, digit grass, medic (barrel, Toreador), Caatinga stylo.
Introduced weeds	Mother-of-millions, African boxthorn, African lovegrass.
Soils	Deep, brown or grey texture contrast soils (sodosol).
Description	Surface: Firm to hard-setting; Surface texture: sand to sandy clay loam; Subsoil texture: light to medium clay.
Water availability	Low
Rooting depth	Moderate
Fertility	Low to very low total nitrogen; low to moderate phosphorus.

Salinity	Subsoil very highly saline.
Sodicity	Subsoil sodic to strongly sodic.
pH	Surface neutral and subsoil strongly to very strongly alkaline.
Utilisation	25%
Enterprise	Breeding and growing.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominately grazing of cattle on native pastures. • Suitable for pasture improvement in some areas. • Contour banks are required on roads/tracks to control erosion. • Unsuitable for cropping.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low soil fertility, low soil moisture storage, shallow effective rooting depth. • Highly erodible soils. • High levels of regrowth. • Hard-setting surface soils. • Germination problems may be encountered as surface sets hard when dry. • Root growth may be inhibited, and water and air movement restricted, due to sodic and relatively impermeable subsoils. • Dense stands of burrs (galvanised) and broad-leaved weeds (mulga fern, pigweed, weir vine) may limit pasture growth, productivity and be toxic to stock.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These alluvial poplar box woodlands provide habitat for rare and threatened flora species (e.g. <i>Homopholis belsonii</i>), and fauna (e.g. greater long-eared bat, little pied bat and squatter pigeon). • This land type can have support a high diversity of fauna including birds (e.g. brown tree creeper, kingfishers, honeyeaters and thornbills); brushtail possums, sugar gliders and many insectivorous bats that use mature trees with hollows; a variety of geckoes, dragons and litter skins that use logs and fallen woody material; echidnas, and sometimes koalas. Rufous bettongs are present where there are few (or no) foxes and a good groundcover of tussock grasses. • Poplar box woodlands have been extensively cleared and modified for cropping or grazing use. • Invasion and regrowth can cause high understorey shrub densities (e.g. currant bush, Ellangowan poison bush). • Careful management of grazing pressure and maintenance of ground cover is important to minimise risk of sheet and gully erosion, reduce runoff and protect the wildlife habitat. • Use of fire could assist in controlling woody weeds and enhance productivity and habitat potential of the land type. • Control of feral animals such as pigs and foxes can help to protect native wildlife in this habitat.
Regional ecosystems	11.9.7, 11.9.7a.
Land units; Map units; Land resource areas, Soil associations	Land Units (Galloway <i>et al</i> 1974) 33; LRA, Soil Associations (DPI 1996) Poplar Box Rises Coalbah 8a, 8b; Land Resource Areas (DPI 1987) 5 - Tartulla (minor area), 2 - Brigalow Upland (minor area).