

Soft mulga



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| Landform | Flat to gently undulating plains. |
| Woody vegetation | Mulga, false sandalwood, cypress pine, poplar box, beefwood and ironwood. |
| Expected pasture composition | <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i> |
| Preferred | Silky umbrella grass, cotton panic, mulga oats, kangaroo grass, mulga Mitchell grass, buffel grass*. |
| Intermediate | Golden beard grass, silky heads, curly windmill grass, woollybutt, purple lovegrass, mountain wanderrie grass, bottlewasher grasses. |
| Non-preferred | Wiregrasses (e.g. Jericho, dark), five-minute grass, three-awn wanderrie grass, rough speargrass, greybeard grass. |
| Legumes | Slender tick trefoil, native indigo, Birdsville indigo. |
| Suitable sown pastures | Buffel grass, digit grass. |
| Introduced weeds | |
| Soils | Shallow to moderately deep (50–120 cm) red sandy or loamy earths. |
| Description | Surface: Loamy hard or moderately hard surfaces; Surface texture: light sandy loam to clay loams; Subsoil texture: clay content increasing down profile to light to medium clays. |
| Water availability | Low to very low. |

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| Rooting depth | Shallow |
| Fertility | Low (phosphorus, carbon, nitrogen). |
| Salinity | Very low. |
| Sodicity | Non-sodic |
| pH | Usually acid throughout profile of red loams. |
| Utilisation | 15% |
| Enterprise | Breeding ewes and cows. |
| Land use and management recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mulga fodder provides drought protein reserves. • Stock lightly during dry periods and post drought to maintain ground cover to minimise water and wind erosion, and to maximise rainfall capture. • Use fire opportunistically as management tool to control woody weeds and dense mulga. |
| Land use limitations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragile grazing lands. • Wiregrasses often predominate in areas cleared of mulga and on sandier soils. • Mulga density and/or woody weed invasion commonly limits pasture growth. • Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion and degradation • Soil nutrient deficiencies (phosphorus, sulphur, calcium, magnesium), acidity and poor surface structure. • Dense stands of burrs (galvanised) and broad-leaved weeds (weir vine, pigweed, mulga fern, pimelea) may limit pasture growth, productivity and be toxic to stock. |
| Conservation features and related management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high diversity of birds including babblers, thornbills, honeyeaters, pardalotes, parrots such as Mallee ringneck, blue bonnet and red-winged parrot can be found in the soft mulga woodlands. • Mulga groves also provide habitat for the rare and threatened pink cockatoo, painted honeyeater, yakka skinks and the woma python. • Native mammals found here include swamp wallaby, dunnarts and Forrest's mouse – particularly where good ground cover is maintained. • Many areas have been extensively cleared or thinned, and significant areas are in poor condition due to irreversible sheet erosion. • A grazing regime that allows spelling and control of feral animals (especially goats) can help to maintain cover in the ground layer and prevent erosion. • Use of fire could assist in controlling woody weeds and enhance productivity and habitat potential of the land zone. |
| Regional ecosystems | 6.5.1. |
| Land units; Map units; Land resource areas; Soil associations | Land Units (Galloway <i>et al</i> 1974) 24; Map Units (DPI 1984) 3 (89), 43; LRA, (DPI 1987) Areas of soft mulga may occur in 4 – Coogoon, 10 - Macwood. |