

# Softwood vine scrub on clay or loam



<b>Landform</b>	Ridges, slopes and sheltered gullies.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Brigalow, belah, wilga, bottle trees, mountain coolibah, scrub trees, false sandalwood.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>Uncleared sparse pasture.</i> * Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.
Preferred	Queensland bluegrass.
Intermediate	Brigalow grass, buffel grass*.
Non-preferred	Lovegrasses, dark wiregrass, rat's tail couch, slender chloris.
Legumes	Woolly glycine, glycine pea.
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Bambatsi, purple pigeon grass, Angleton grass, creeping bluegrass, Rhodes grass, buffel grass, green panic, digit grass, tall finger grass, desmanthus, medic (barrel, burr), Caatinga stylo, leucaena. Short term (2 to 5 years) lucerne, burgundy bean, snail medic.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Parthenium, Bathurst burr, Noogoora burr.
<b>Soils</b>	Brown and grey brown clays (vertosols).
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Loose to weakly crusting; <b>Surface texture:</b> light to medium clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> medium clay.
Water availability	Moderate
Rooting depth	Between 30 to 90 cm.

<b>Fertility</b>	Low total nitrogen; moderate phosphorus.
<b>Salinity</b>	Very low.
<b>Sodicity</b>	Sodic to strongly sodic below 30 cm.
<b>pH</b>	Slightly alkaline.
<b>Utilisation</b>	30% (sown).
<b>Enterprise</b>	Finishing
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most areas of softwood scrub have been cleared and established to improved pastures.</li> <li>• Retain trees on beds and banks of watercourses.</li> <li>• Maintain vegetation belts for wildlife habitats and corridors.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regrowth of some species.</li> <li>• Surface sealing soils.</li> <li>• Subsoil sodicity is common.</li> <li>• Dense stands of burrs (galvanised) and broad-leaved plants (mintweed, pigweed) may limit pasture growth, productivity and be toxic to stock.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat for many rare and threatened plants including ooline, Bailey's cypress, <i>Atalaya calcicola</i>, <i>Croton magneticus</i>, <i>Ehretia grahamii</i> and <i>Wrightia versicolor</i>.</li> <li>• Softwood scrubs provide important habitat for threatened species (e.g. common death adder, brigalow scaly-foot, short-necked worm-skink, greater long-eared bat); a large number of rare and endemic invertebrates (e.g. land snails and native dung beetles); and species that like to shelter in dense cover, such as black-breasted button-quail (now probably extinct from the region), barking owls, bandicoots and black-striped wallabies.</li> <li>• Many animals – particularly birds – that live in rainforests or wet forests further east (e.g. emerald dove, wonga pigeon, scrubwrens, eastern yellow robin) can be found in these softwood scrubs.</li> <li>• These habitats can be sensitive to fire and invasion by introduced pasture grasses such as buffel grass, which also provides fuel for damaging fires.</li> <li>• In some cases, wallaby populations (where there are no predators such as dingos) can build up enough numbers to over-graze the ground layer of isolated remnant scrubs and vine thickets.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	11.8.2a, 11.8.3, 11.9.4a, 13.11.7a.
<b>Land units; Map units; Land resource areas; Soil associations</b>	Land Units (Galloway <i>et al</i> 1974) 9; Map Units (DPI 1984) 1; LRA, Soil Associations (DPI 1996) Brigalow Rises, 5c; Land Resource Areas (DPI 1987) 2 - Brigalow Uplands, Eumamurrin.