

# Boree wooded downs



Photo: T2 (Kentle) Land System

## General description

Flat to gently undulating plains of boree wooded Mitchell grassland on brown and grey moderately cracking clays. Dense stone cover in patches is common. Generally drain into open or wooded alluvial plains and adjacent to open downs, soft gidgee or wooded downs.

## Landform

Flat to gently undulating plains.

## Woody vegetation

Boree, occasionally with whitewood, boonaree, leopardwood, vine tree, broom bush, mimosa, and a cassia or turkey bush layer. Often with false sandalwood.

## Expected pasture composition

*\* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*

### Preferred

Mitchell grasses, desert bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, finger panic.

### Intermediate

Star grass/native millet, fairy grass, bottlewasher grasses, katoora.

### Non-preferred

Feathertop.

### Annual grasses

Flinders grass, button grass.

### Common forbs

Native legumes (e.g. grey rattlepod, glycine, rhynchosia), annual verbine, sida, potato bush, soda bush, pigweed, saltbush, tarvine, red spinach.

## Suitable sown pasture

Not suitable for sown pastures.

## Introduced weeds

Parthenium, rubbervine, bellyache bush, mother-of-millions, cactus (snake, devil's rope, harrisia and coral), spiked malvastrum, mesquite (hybrid), prickly acacia, parkinsonia.

## Soil

Moderately deep to deep brown and grey clays derived from freshwater siltstone, usually with dense gravel cover. Clay soils moderately cracking to depth.

### Description

**Surface:** Self-mulching beneath weak crusts; **Surface texture:** heavy clay, occasionally light clay; **Subsoil texture:** heavy clay.

### Features

Usually patches of dense stone cover which limit cracking. Ironstone occurs throughout the profile. Lime and gypsum are present in profile.

<b>Water availability</b>	Moderate												
<b>Rooting depth</b>	Deep												
<b>Infiltration</b>	High initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to moderate levels after 35 mm of rain as cracks close and to low levels after 60 mm of rain. High runoff following 60 mm of rain. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain.												
<b>Fertility</b>	Moderately high.												
<b>Salinity</b>	Non-saline at surface, rapidly increasing to very high levels >20 cm.												
<b>Sodicity</b>	Non-sodic												
<b>pH</b>	Moderately alkaline throughout profile.												
<b>Utilisation</b>	22%												
<b>Enterprise</b>	Breeding, fattening and wool production.												
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for grazing of native pastures.</li> <li>• Provides valuable shade with sparse top-feed.</li> <li>• Rotational wet season spelling to maintain perennial pasture composition.</li> <li>• Maintain adequate ground cover to minimise soil erosion.</li> <li>• Strategic burning to manage thickening with late dry season hot fires may be required in some areas.</li> </ul>												
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dense stone cover may restrict infiltration and limit productivity, but reduces erosion.</li> <li>• Seasonal prominence of poisonous plants, such as pimelea.</li> <li>• Boree thickening in some areas.</li> <li>• High salt levels close to the surface (&gt;20 cm) may limit productivity.</li> <li>• Moderate clay soils that require 50–75 mm of rain for Mitchell grasses to grow.</li> </ul>												
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wooded grassland is habitat for seed and insect eating birds; tussock structure is important for crack-dwelling specialists such as dunnart, planigale and Collett's snake.</li> </ul>												
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	4.9.7, 4.9.7a.												
<b>WARLUS land systems</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>II</td> <td>III</td> <td>IV</td> <td>V</td> <td>VI</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>T1, T2, T4</td> <td></td> <td>T2</td> <td>T2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	I	II	III	IV	V	VI		T1, T2, T4		T2	T2	
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