

# Hard gidgee



Photo: G3 (Spoilbank) Land System

## General description

Flat to sloping closed gidgee woodland plains on brown cracking clays with dense stone and gravel cover. Generally drain into wooded alluvial plains and adjacent to soft mulga sandridge, soft gidgee, boree wooded downs and jump-ups.

## Landform

Flat to sloping plains.

## Woody vegetation

Gidgee often in association with false sandalwood, sandalwood, whitewood, broom bush, wild orange and cassia.

## Expected pasture composition

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

### Preferred

Katoora, occasionally Mitchell grasses.

### Intermediate

Woollybutt wanderrie grass, mountain wanderrie grass, fairy grass, bottlewasher grasses, knottybutt grass, and spinifex in sandy soils.

### Non-preferred

Wiregrasses.

### Annual grasses

Button grass.

### Common forbs

Pigweed, hibiscus, sida, flannel weed, saltbush, potato bush. Non-preferred species include goathead burr, gidgee burrs, copperburrs, roly poly.

## Suitable sown pasture

Generally not recommended, some areas may be suited to buffel or Mitchell grass.

## Introduced weeds

Parthenium, mother-of-millions, cactus (snake, devil's rope, harrisia and coral).

## Soil

Deep brown clays derived from fresh and salt water mudstone and sandstone sediments with dense stone and gravel cover, and deep sandy texture contrast soils. Clay soils weakly cracking to depth.

### Description

**Surface:** Usually dense stone and gravel cover; **Surface texture:** sandy clay to medium clay; **Subsoil texture:** medium clay.

<b>Features</b>	Variable gilgai development. Usually dense gravel and stone cover. Soils are fragile and actively eroding. Often shallow topsoil, subsoil very dispersive.					
<b>Water availability</b>	Moderate					
<b>Rooting depth</b>	Shallow to moderate.					
<b>Infiltration</b>	Moderate initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to low levels after 25 mm of rain as topsoil is saturated. High runoff following 25 mm of rain. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain.					
<b>Fertility</b>	Low to moderate.					
<b>Salinity</b>	Non-saline at surface, increasing rapidly to high level in subsoils.					
<b>Sodicity</b>	Non-sodic at surface; sodic at depth.					
<b>pH</b>	Neutral to alkaline at surface; strongly alkaline at depth.					
<b>Utilisation</b>	15%					
<b>Enterprise</b>	Breeding 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>• Generally unsuited to clearing.</li> <li>• Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion.</li> <li>• Reduce erosion risk by preventing subsoils from being exposed.</li> <li>• These areas provide good runoff for adjacent country.</li> <li>• Provides shade and sparse top-feed.</li> <li>• Strategic burning to manage gidgee encroachment with late dry season hot fires.</li> </ul>					
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dense gidgee thickening, stone and gravel cover, slope and fragile soils limit productivity.</li> <li>• High erosion risk.</li> <li>• Seasonal impact from poisonous plants such as pencil caustic, turkey bush and pimelea.</li> <li>• Thickening of woody species (false sandalwood) may limit productivity.</li> </ul>					
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High reptile habitat value. Size, connectivity and condition of ground layer vegetation determine fauna values.</li> </ul>					
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	4.5.6x2d, 4.7.4, 4.7.4a-d, 4.9.16a.					
<b>WARLUS land systems</b>	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	G1, G2, G3	G2, G3			G3, G4, G5	T1, T2