

Soft mulga



Photo: M1 (Tonkoro) Land System

General description

Flat to gently sloping plains of red earths and light clays with mulga low woodland to tall shrublands that are often distinctly groved. Generally drain into wooded alluvial plains and adjoin soft mulga sandridge, spinifex sandplains, hard mulga or hard gidgee.

Landform

Flat to gently sloping plains.

Woody vegetation

Mulga occurring with whitewood, and western bloodwood in some areas. Often with a cassia or turkey bush understorey. To the south of the region may occur in association with poplar box.

Expected pasture composition

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

Preferred

Cotton panic, kangaroo grass, silky umbrella grass, mulga Mitchell.

Intermediate

Woollybutt wanderrie grass, mountain wanderrie grass, bottlewasher grasses.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses.

Annual grasses

Three-awn wanderrie grass, windmill grass.

Common forbs

Goodenia, silky bluebush, tropical speedwell, green crumbweed. Non-preferred species include copperburrs.

Suitable sown pastures

None suitable.

Introduced weeds

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

Soil

Mostly moderately deep to deep sandy light clays, with some deep sandy red earths, overlaying clay soils.

Description

Surface: Loamy hard or moderately hard surfaces; **Surface texture:** light sandy loam to clay loam; **Subsoil texture:** clay content increasing down profile to light to medium clays.

Features	Ironstone present on soil surface and in profile. Sinkholes associated with sandy light clays.					
Water availability	Low to very low.					
Rooting depth	Deep					
Infiltration	High to very high.					
Fertility	Low to very low.					
Salinity	Non-saline					
Sodicity	Non-sodic					
pH	Medium to strongly acid throughout.					
Utilisation	15%					
Enterprise	Breeding and wool production.					
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing of native pastures. • Maximise ground cover to reduce soil erosion. • These areas provide good run-off for adjacent country. • Provides shade and useful top feed. • Responds to small falls of rain. • Strategic burning with hot fires may be needed to reduce thickening. 					
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense mulga thickening, stone and gravel cover and infertile fragile soils limit productivity. • Generally require phosphorus supplements for livestock. • Little evidence of erosion. • Woodland thickening and encroachment. 					
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mulga soils tend to have modified ground layer. • Fencing to manage total grazing pressure and wet season spelling can be beneficial. • Size, shape and connectivity of remnant patches will determine their biodiversity values. 					
Regional ecosystems	4.5.3a, 4.5.3x2.					
WARLUS land systems	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
	M1, M2, M3, M4, M5	M1, M2, M3, M4	M1, M2, M3, M4, M5	M1, M2	M1	M1