

Ironbark and blue gum on clay



Landform	Ridge crests, and mid to upper slopes in undulating rises to rolling low hills.
Woody vegetation	Open forest of silver-leaved ironbark and Queensland blue gum. Often associated with Moreton Bay ash and Clarkson's bloodwood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Forest bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, black speargrass, Rhodes grass*, creeping bluegrass*.
Intermediate	Umbrella/blowaway grass, tambookie grass, couch grass*, spring grass, slender bamboo grass, liverseed grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses, blady grass, slender chloris.
Legumes	Glycine pea, woolly glycine, rhynchosia, creeping tick trefoil.
Annual grasses	Small burr grass.
Suitable sown pastures	Rhodes grass, creeping bluegrass, Caatinga stylo, siratro, leucaena, medics.
Introduced weeds	
Soil	Very shallow (lithosols) to shallow, dark clay loams and clays (rendzinas) over weathering rock.
Description	Surface: Loose to self-mulching, occasionally hard-setting; Surface texture: sandy, loamy or clayey; clay loam; Subsoil texture: little profile development in lithosols; medium clay (rendzinas).
Features	Shallow soils have bedrock at <0.3–0.8 m, with varying amounts of limestone, stone and gravel throughout profile. Fragmented and weathering bedrock usually highly permeable.

Water availability	Very low to low, PAWC <50–100 mm in root zone.
Rooting depth	Effective rooting depth <0.3 m (lithosols) and <0.8 m (rendzinas).
Fertility	Low generally for lithosols; medium to high (shallow clays) nitrogen; medium to high (shallow clays) phosphorus; medium to high (shallow clays) potassium; medium zinc and copper.
Salinity	Very low to low.
Sodicity	Non-sodic
pH	Acid (6.0) to neutral (6.6) (lithosols) to slightly alkaline (7.5) (shallow clays) at surface; slightly acid (6.4) to strongly alkaline (8.5) at depth (shallow clays).
Utilisation	30%
Enterprise	Breeding and fattening.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for grazing of non-irrigated improved pastures. • Areas with suitable depth soils (>0.5 m) and low slopes (<10%) grain, fodder and small crops may be grown. • Very shallow soils are not suited for development, and support generally poor quality native pastures. • Maintain maximum surface cover to maintain soil structure and reduce erosion. • Very shallow soils should be left as undisturbed as possible with maximum surface cover maintained at all times. • Implement contour banks, safe disposal areas for runoff and crop management strategies to control erosion. • Timber and other woody vegetation should be retained on ridges and steep slopes. • Burn every 2–3 years to help control weeds and regrowth (silver-leaved ironbark, wattles, corkwood).
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective rooting depth limited by depth to bedrock. • Low plant available water capacity due to shallow soil depths. • Hard-setting with large amounts of gravel and stone (lithosols). • Often occur on steep slopes that are highly erodible with poorly structured soils.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These basalt ridges are associated with several significant eucalypts, and the vegetation communities have outstanding fauna value, especially for arboreal hollow dwellers. • Uplands areas are important in a biogeographic sense with many species limited to these areas.
Regional ecosystems	11.8.8, 12.8.16, 12.8.17, 12.8.27.
Land resource area	Basaltic Uplands 2b, Forest Walloons, 6a (Noble, 1996).