

Brigalow



Landform	Flat alluvial plains in south-east, to gently undulating to undulating plains, low hills and lower slopes of scarps (slopes 2–8%) in north and north-east.
Woody vegetation	Brigalow low open woodlands to tall shrublands occurring variably with gidgee, belah, Dawson gum and mountain yapunyah, and scattered boonaree, whitewood and leopardwood. False sandalwood and wilga commonly form a shrubby understorey.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Mitchell grasses (curly, hoop), buffel grass* (naturalised), Queensland bluegrass, cotton panic, umbrella/blowaway grass, neverfail.
Intermediate	Bottlewasher grasses, curly windmill grass, brigalow grass, box grass, fairy/yakka grass, katoora, five-minute grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses (e.g. dark, many-headed, feathertop).
Annual grasses	Native couch, comb chloris, button grass, small Flinders grass.
Common forbs	Red spinach, common prickly pear, daisies (e.g. yellow everlasting) daisy burrs, ruby saltbush, saltbushes, burrs, soft roly poly, black roly poly, sedges, <i>Abutilon</i> spp., sidas (e.g. flannel, high, pin), speedy weed, pigweed.
Suitable sown pastures	Buffel grass.
Introduced weeds	Tree pear, parkinsonia and African boxthorn around water points.
Soil	Moderately deep to very deep grey, reddish brown and brown cracking clays and texture contrast soils, with variable light cover of gravel/stone and gilgai development.

Description	Surface: Weak crusts over weak to moderate self-mulching; some hard-setting; Surface texture: sandy clay or light to medium clay; Subsoil texture: medium-heavy clays at depth.
Features	Moderately self-mulching; some hard-setting.
Water availability	High
Rooting depth	Sodicity or alkalinity of soils at >60 cm depth limits effective soil depth.
Infiltration	Cracking clays high when dry, becoming rapidly less as soils become saturated; slow on hard-setting soils.
Fertility	Moderate; low to very fair carbon and nitrogen, low acid phosphorus.
Salinity	Non-saline; some soils have saline subsoils.
Sodicity	Non-sodic at surface; sodic to strongly sodic at depth.
pH	Variable; ranging from slightly acid to strongly alkaline at surface, often increasing down profile.
Utilisation	20%
Enterprise	Breeding sheep and cows.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastures are of low productivity but high quality and respond well to clearing operations but regrowth needs controlling. • Pasture on texture contrast soils responds to light falls of rain; heavier falls (>30 mm) are needed for a response on cracking clays. • The drier areas are suitable for short-term cropping only as a precursor to permanent pasture establishment. • Non-continuous winter cropping with rotational periods under pasture in areas that receive sufficient rainfall. • Use of contour banks, grassed waterways and conservation cropping needed to minimise runoff and soil erosion on more steeply sloping land (>1% slope). • Slopes greater than 6% should not be cultivated.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense brigalow and false sandalwood regrowth can severely limit productivity. • Secondary salinity may be a problem if surrounding high country has been cleared. • Low drought grazing capacity unless buffel well established.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigalow, particularly in association with belah, provide potential habitat for rare and threatened fauna (e.g. painted honeyeater, black-chinned honeyeater, woma python). These areas also provide habitat for a very high diversity of birds (yellow-tailed black-cockatoo, Bourke's parrot, crested bellbird, spotted bowerbird), reptiles (eastern spiny-tailed gecko, slider and striped skinks), and insectivorous bats including the vulnerable greater long-eared bat. • Extensive areas of brigalow have been, and are prone to being, cleared. Some areas are also prone to scalding. • Use of a combination of soil conservation techniques will help minimise soil erosion and scalding; and use of fire to control regrowth can enhance the productivity and potential habitat of this land zone.
Regional ecosystems	4.9.15, 4.9.17, 4.9.19, 6.3.25, 6.4.2, 6.4.4, 6.9.3, 11.3.1, 11.9.11.