

Bluegrass browntop plains



Landform

Open grassland, flat to gently undulating, practically treeless and possesses an overall appearance of uniformity. Flood plains on quaternary alluvium.

Woody vegetation

Scattered occurrences of coolibah, gidgee, bauhinia, beefwood, guttapercha and whitewood.

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native species*

Preferred

Mitchell grass (bull, hoop), gulf bluegrass, silky browntop, forest bluegrass, desert bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass.

Intermediate

Native millet, golden beard grass, windmill grasses, bottlewashers, Australian wild rice, tassel bluegrass, cup grass/spring grass, pitted bluegrass.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses, e.g. feathertop.

Annual grasses

Flinders grass, button grass, pepper grass, Annual sorghum, native couch, Australian dropseed, summer grass.

Non-preferred annual species include asbestos grass.

Common forbs

Sesbania pea, onion vine/paper rose, Ipomoea/cow vine, tarvine, rhynchosia.

Suitable sown pasture

Not suitable for sown pastures.

Introduced weeds

Calotrope, mesquite, prickly acacia, parkinsonia, and rubber vine and bellyache bush in associated riparian areas.

Soil	Cracking grey and brown clays (vertisols). Commonly interspersed with alluvial soils along stream, river, and creek beds.
Description	Surface: Generally self-mulching, a thin crust may be present, minor areas of hard setting soils; Surface texture: light to medium to heavy clay; Sub-soil texture: medium to heavy clay
Features	Predominantly self-mulching and deep cracking with some hard-setting areas. Carbonate nodules may occur throughout the profile. Gilgai's can occur as both melon holes and linear gilgai.
Water availability	Moderate to high with low to moderate internal drainage depending on the sodicity at depths.
Rooting depth	Moderate to high.
Fertility	Moderate. Tendency to be marginal in Phosphorous.
Infiltration	High initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to moderate levels after 50 mm of rain as cracks close and to low levels after 75-100 mm of rain. Areas of hard setting soils will have extremely limited infiltration rates. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain. Good soaking rain or flooding required to wet the soil profile.
Salinity	Low but increasing with depth.
Sodicity	Patches of sodicity; increasing with depth, particularly in poorly drained areas.
pH	Neutral to alkaline (gravelly areas may be slightly acidic).
Utilisation	22%
Enterprise	Breeding and fattening.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use fire judiciously as a management tool to control woody weeds. • Maintenance of ground cover to minimise shrub invasion and wind and water (gully) erosion.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of asbestos grass • Productivity can be limited by thickening of native timber and woody weeds (guttapercha, parkinsonism, mimosa) • No urgent or immediate conservation concerns.
Conservation features and related management	
Regional ecosystems	2.3.12, 2.3.1a, 2.3.3, 2.3.4, 2.3.43, 2.3.44a-e, 2.3.67, 2.4.1a-c, 2.9.2, 2.9.2x3, 4.3.19.
Land systems	Donors (28), Donaldson (29), Balbirini (48), Glenore (50), Georgina (55) (Perry 1964)