

Mitchell grass



Landform

Flat to undulating plains. Often adjoins and sometimes mixed in with bluegrass browntop plains and/or flooded plains.

Woody vegetation

Predominantly treeless plains with whitewood, vine tree/supplejack and areas of gidgee and corkwood wattle and coolibah and guttapercha on the edge of flooded areas.

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native species*

Preferred

Mitchell grass, gulf bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, buffel grass*, forest bluegrass, desert bluegrass.

Intermediate

Cupgrass/spring grass, silky browntop, umbrella canegrass, lovegrass, native millet.

Non-preferred

Feathertop.

Annual grasses

Australian dropseed, summer grass, pepper grass, Flindersgrass, native couch, button grass, annual sorghum.

Non preferred species include asbestos grass.

Common forbs

Sidas, pigweed, sensitive plants, tarvine, chain pea, annual verbine/native lucerne, glycine, rattlepod, cow vine, camel bush/cattle bush(wet areas), onion vine/paper rose, desmodium, sesbania pea, rhynchosia, tick weed, goathead, flinders poppy, speedyweed.

Suitable sown pastures

Generally not suitable for sown pastures.

Introduced weeds

Prickly acacia, parkinsonia, mesquite, potentially parthenium.

Soil	Grey-brown heavy cracking calcareous clays with uneven, self-mulching and often ashy surfaces, and with some areas of pebbly downs.
Description	Surface: Self-mulching with some crusting, ashy in areas and minor occurrences of stone; Surface texture: heavy clay; Sub-soil texture: heavy clay.
Features	Uniform colour and a self-mulching surface.
Water availability	Moderate to high.
Rooting depth	Deep to moderate.
Infiltration	High initially on a dry soil profile, slowing to moderate levels after 75 mm of rain as cracks close and to low levels after 100 mm of rain. Increasing run-off following 100 mm of rain. Estimates based on low to moderate intensity storm rain.
Fertility	Moderate.
Salinity	Non-saline at surface. In some areas increasing to high to very high values with depth.
Sodicity	Non-sodic at surface; subsoils can be sodic.
pH	Alkaline to very alkaline.
Utilisation	22%
Enterprise	Breeding and fattening.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use fire judiciously as management tool to control woody weeds and feathertop.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavier claysoils require 75-100 mm of rain for Mitchell grasses to grow. • Regrowth and high densities of shrubs such as prickly acacia and guttapercha can limit productivity.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected areas include Camooweal Caves and Lawn Hill National Park.
Regional ecosystems	1.11.13, 1.5.1, 1.5.2a-c, 1.5.3, 1.5.4a, 1.5.4c-d, 1.5.7, 1.9.1, 2.4.2a-b, 2.5.2, 2.5.32, 2.9.1.
Land systems	Julia(27), Monstraven (49), Gregory(52), Wonardo (30) (Perry 1964)