

Soft spinifex country



Landform

Dissected low plateaux and high plains and ridges. Small areas occur on hills and steeper slopes.

Woody vegetation

Silver leaf box or snappy gum low woodlands. Other low woodland species that occur include western bloodwood, whitewood, beefwood and paperbarks. Shrubs may include turpentine, wattles, currant bush and cassias.

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native species*

Preferred

Soft spinifex, kangaroo grass, Cloncurry buffel grass*, black speargrass.

Intermediate

Silky oil grass, golden beard grass, bottlewashers.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses.

Annual grasses

Button grass, Australian dropseed, native couch, small burr grass, slender wanderrie grass, long-awn wanderrie grass.

Common forbs

Rattlepods, tickweed, common bonamia, tropical speedwell, Birdsville indigo, sidas.

Suitable sown pastures

Shrubby stylos (e.g. Seca), Caribbean stylos (e.g Verano).

Introduced weeds

Grader grass, calotrope.

Soil	Skeletal soils and sands and deeper red and yellow earths.
Description	Surface: Loose, soft and massive; Surface texture: <i>sand</i> , sandy loam or sandy clay loam; Sub-soil texture: light clay to clay, where present.
Features	Soils frequently uneven and often shallow to rock. Clay subsoils are hard where present.
Water availability	Low to moderate.
Rooting depth	Low to moderate.
Infiltration	Low to moderate.
Fertility	Low to moderate. Low in available phosphorus.
Salinity	Very low.
Sodicity	Very low.
pH	Neutral to medium acid.
Utilisation	15%
Enterprise	Breeding.
Land use and management recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use fire judiciously as management tool to control wattle and timber thickening. Fire can be used to improve access to palatable spinifex, to encourage spinifex seeds to germinate. • Maintenance of ground cover to minimise shrub invasion and erosion.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalded areas occur due to overuse. • Regrowth and high shrub densities can limit productivity.
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic wildfires can lead to changes in woody vegetation and pasture composition.
Regional ecosystems	1.11.10a-b, 1.11.11, 1.11.12, 1.12.3b-c, 1.12.6, 1.12.7, 1.5.12, 1.7.2a, 1.7.3, 1.7.4, 1.7.7b, 1.9.11b, 1.9.11b, 2.10.1b, 2.5.11a, 2.5.28a-b.
Land systems	Punchbowl (12), Cowan (14) (Perry 1964)