### Black soils on basalt and granite

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>Undulating to gently undulating plains and rises formed on predominantly basalt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woody vegetation</td>
<td>Predominantly treeless plains. Occasionally ghost gum and black tea tree occur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected pasture composition</td>
<td>* Denotes non-native “Expected Pasture Composition” species. Bare ground or little grass cover occurs on the hard rock rubble of lava flows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>Angleton grass*, green couch, desert bluegrass, kangaroo grass, black speargrass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Pitted bluegrass, silky browntop, cane grass, golden beard grass, lemon-scented grass, native millet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-preferred</td>
<td>Wiregrasses, northern wanderrie grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual grasses</td>
<td>Comet grass, Flinders grass, two-coloured panic. Non-preferred species include asbestos grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suitable sown pastures</td>
<td>Angleton grass, Indian couch, creeping bluegrass, butterfly pea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduced weeds</td>
<td>Mimosa bush, rubbervine, Noogoora burr, grader grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil</td>
<td>Massive black and brown earths; sometimes cracking.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Description**

*Surface:* Self-mulching; *Surface texture:* medium clay; *Subsoil texture:* medium to heavy clay.

**Features**


**Water availability**

High

**Fertility**

High; moderate nitrogen (5 mg/kg); moderate phosphorus (11 mg/kg); high potassium (1.0 cmol\(c\)/kg), occasionally zinc deficiency.

**Salinity**

Non-saline

**Sodicity**

Non-sodic

**pH**

Neutral (7.0) surface increasing alkalinity at depth.

**Utilisation**

30%

**Enterprise**

Breeding and growing.

**Land use and management recommendations**

- Suitable for grazing of native pastures.
- Rotational wet seasons spelling to maintain perennial pasture composition.
- Manage grazing pressure to ensure at least 50% ground cover at break of season.
- Strategic burning (late dry hot burn) to manage woody weeds (e.g. rubbervine).

**Land use limitations**

- Internal drainage may be slow leaving soils prone to water logging.
- Basalt soils have rocky profile throughout.
- Narrow range of optimum moisture for tillage and traffic.

**Conservation features and related management**

- Subject to high grazing pressure.
- Subject to weed infestation by rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) and grader grass (*Themeda quadrivalvis*).

**Regional ecosystems**

7.8.7b, 9.8.2a-b.

**Soil associations**

BELB, BCELB, BERG, BEAL, GCAL, BCAL, BCPL (Grundy and Bryde 1989).