

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, bauhinia, gidyea, ghost gum, bloodwoods (eg. western bloodwood), beefwood, guttapercha and whitewood.
Expected pasture composition	<i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species</i>
Preferred	Forest/desert bluegrass, Queensland bluegrass, kangaroo grass, curly and bull Mitchell grass, gulf bluegrass, black speargrass.
Intermediate	Pitted bluegrass, silky browntop, windmill grasses, lemon-scented grass/silky oil grass, bottlewashers, golden beard grass/ribbon grass, white grass, downs couch, native oat grass, Australian wild rice, northern rice grass, tassel bluegrass, sheda grass, downs sorghum, pepper grass, cupgrass/spring grass, sedges, tall tamil grass.
Non-preferred	Wiregrasses, summer grass, asbestos grass.
Annual grasses	Bunched kerosene grass, button grass, long awn wanderrie grass, red Flinders grass, Australian dropseed.
Common forbs	Pea bush, soft roly-poly, Queensland bluebush, tar vine, boggabri, rhynchosia, caustic weed, thick trefoil, rattlepods, camel bush.
Suitable sown pasture	None known.
Introduced weeds	Calotrope, bellyache bush, mesquite, prickly acacia, parkinsonia.

Soil	Cracking and calcareous clays. Frequently there is a thin crust of fine soil/sand on the surface. Colours range from dark grey to olive-brown to red-yellow. Commonly interspersed with alluvial soils along stream, river and creek beds.
Description	Surface: Fine sand/silt sometimes with a tendency to be gravelly; Surface texture: some with self mulching surfaces; Sub-soil texture: vary from sandy loams to heavy clays, and are massive silty clays or heavy clays with an extremely hard consistence, mottled in olive browns and browns and becoming yellower with depth.
Features	Predominantly self mulching with some hard-setting areas.
Water availability	Moderate to low.
Rooting depth	Moderate to high.
Fertility	Moderate.
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 (note: 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 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 hard-setting soils supporting annual/seasonal vegetation, predominantly asbestos grass. • Phosphorous supplementation may be required. • Regrowth and high shrub densities can limit productivity. • Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion and degradation. • Productivity can be limited by thickening of woody weeds (guttapercha, parkinsonia, mimosa).
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No urgent or immediate conservation concerns.
Regional ecosystems	2.3.4, 2.3.4x40-41, 2.3.4x43-44, 2.9.2, 4.3.10, 4.3.19, 9.3.25, 9.3.26, 9.3.27a.