

Spinifex plains



Landform

Sandplains over clay and sandplains on rocky plateaus. Small areas of land type occur on lower slopes and flats, limited areas on clay plains and alluvia.

Woody vegetation

Predominantly scattered snappy gum with coolibah, whitewood, river red gum, yellow wood, gidyea, paperbarks, beefwood, bloodwoods, bauhinia, Leichhardt's rusty jacket, long leaved corkwood, turpentine, gundabluie, native cotton, currant bush/conkerberry, Cloncurry box, kapok tree.

Expected pasture composition

** Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species*

Preferred

Soft spinifex, sorghum, kangaroo grass, Cloncurry buffel grass* (naturalised).

Intermediate

White grass, golden beard grass/ribbon grass, long awn wanderrie grass, pitted bluegrass, windmill grasses, lemon-scented grass/silky oil grass, bottlewashers.

Non-preferred

Wiregrasses.

Annual grasses

Bunched kerosene grass, hairy armgrass, button grass, weeping lovegrass, comet grass, Flinders grass, fire grass.

Common forbs

Sidas, Birdsville indigo.

Suitable sown pastures

Buffel grass.

Introduced weeds

Calotrope, rubbervine, bellyache bush.

Soil	Red and yellow loams to light clays grading into medium to heavy clays.
Description	Sandy or sandy loams grading into clays at depths of 15 to 120 cm. Surface: Loose to surface sealing; Surface texture: sandy loams to sandy clays; Subsoil texture: clay.
Features	Water not readily available in subsoil.
Water availability	Moderate.
Rooting depth	Low to moderate.
Infiltration	Low to moderate. Light rain is required for water to infiltrate down to the deeper clays.
Fertility	Low to moderate.
Salinity	Low in surface, increasing with depth.
Sodicity	Low in surface, increasing with depth.
pH	Medium acid to neutral, possibly changing with depth.
Utilisation	15%.
Enterprise	Breeding.
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. • High grazing pressure leads to scalding and wind erosion. • Strip clearing is preferable to clearing of large areas to minimise erosion and degradation.
Land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regrowth and high shrub densities (Turpentine) can limit productivity
Conservation features and related management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffel grass replacing native vegetation.
Regional ecosystems	1.5.4b, 1.7.1c, 2.3.32, 2.5.11b, 2.5.11d, 2.5.2x2, 2.5.9x51, 2.7.3f, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.5.5, 4.5.8, 10.5.10.