Threats

In many cases, woodlands and grasslands have been significantly modified to support farming systems and are now present as scattered vegetation over and amongst pasture grasses. Drainage and grazing by livestock have further modified these plant communities, making preservation of remaining patches a priority.

Disconnected remnants: Woodlands and grasslands suffer from damage from stock ringbarking trees, rubbing and chewing them, soil compaction and greatly increased nutrients. As a result of these stressors, they are more susceptible to attack by insects. Being isolated from other vegetation, the birds that help control these insects are less abundant and visit the areas less often.

Changing water regimes: Artificial drainage, irrigation and cultivation reduce suitable areas for woodlands and grasslands to exist.

Fire: Stubble burning damages living trees and eliminates dead paddock trees. Dead trees often still have valuable hollows that animals use for nesting and breeding in. Most introduced grasses burn hotter than native grasses, preventing them from reshooting.

Grazing: Seedlings and saplings are very tasty and are eaten by sheep and cattle, preventing regeneration.

Weed invasion: Weeds out-compete native plants,preventing natural regeneration.

Wood cutting: Due to their valuable timber, trees are often targeted for woodcutting.

Restoration Action

Woodlands and grasslands are precious habitat and important steppingstones for wildlife to move across cleared landscapes. Fencing off existing areas and trees, linking and revegetating them, will greatly improve important habitat for an abundance of animals.

Opening Hours:

Garden: 7 days a week from sunrise to sunset

Community Nursery and NRC:

Monday by appointment

Tuesday 9am - 4.30pm

Wednesday 9am - 12.30pm

Thursday 9am - 4.30pm

Friday by appointment

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Government of South Australia

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

Barossa Bushgardens

Place Plants People

Barossa Woodlands and Grasslands

The Barossa Council

Since the European settlers arrived in South Australia, 98% of native vegetation has been lost. Protection and revegetation of endangered native plant communities is the only way to ensure the survival of rare and threatened flora and fauna species.

In the Barossa Bushgardens, four plant communities are represented to help visitors, landholders and the community to identify them and make responsible choices when it comes to looking after the land.

Peppermint Box Grassy Woodland

Description

The Peppermint Box (Eucalyptus odorata) Grassy Woodland is an open to dense woodland, with a ground layer of mainly grasses and herbs. The tree canopy is dominated by the woodland form of Peppermint Box, which has a single main trunk at the base. Shrubs are sparse, with up to 30% cover.

Distribution

Peppermint Box Grassy Woodlands are unique to South Australia. Their distribution extends mainly from the southern Flinders Ranges to Victor Harbor. Patches also occur on eastern Eyre Peninsula. They have been highly cleared and fragmented since European settlement, with only 2% of their original cover remaining.

Conservation Status

The Peppermint Box Grassy Woodland of South Australia is nationally listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Blue Gum Woodland

Description

Blue Gums vary from poorly formed trees in dense low scrub, to tall trees in open grassy woodlands. Blue Gum woodland is an extremely variable vegetation community that can range from head-height, dense coastal scrub, through to tall open grassy woodland, with trees greater than 25 metres in height or trees over seasonal wetlands.
This woodland is now only at 10% of its original cover.

Habitat

Blue Gum woodland is a particularly productive habitat for native fauna and can provide abundant flowers for migratory birds and native wildlife, and roosting/refuge habitat for reptiles, invertebrates, birds and nectar-feeding or grazing mammals.

Redgum Woodland

Description

Red Gums (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) are one of the most widespread trees across Australia. They are slow growing, but are thought to live for over 500 years. Red Gum woodlands are generally open and the understorey dominated by native grasses, rushes, sedges, lilies and daisies with shrubs and other trees.

Habitat

Intact Red Gum woodlands and swamps provide some of the most important wildlife habitat in the state. Older River Red Gum trees (100 years plus) have hollow limbs and main trunks, providing nesting sites and habitat for a range of animals including insects, bats, birds and mammals, and rare and threatened species such as the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Sugar Gliders and Squirrel Gliders.

Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland

Description

The Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia is a grassland dominated by Irongrasses (Lomandra multiflora ssp. dura and/or Lomandra effusa), with tussock-forming (clumping) grasses, low shrubs and a range of other native plants in the ground layer. Trees and tall shrubs are generally absent or very sparse (less than 10% cover).

Distribution

Iron-grass Grasslands are unique to South Australia. Their main distribution is on the slopes and hills of the Mount Lofty Ranges, west of the River Murray and throughout the Mid North. Patches also occur on the eastern side of the River Murray near Tailem Bend, and may occur along the Hummocks Range north of the Gulf St Vincent.

Conservation Status

The Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia is nationally listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.