

Vegetation Community Profile

Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) (Low) Woodland/ Open Forest (WM1801PE)

Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) is the sole dominant overstorey tree. The understorey is dominated by densely spaced sclerophyll (hard-leaved) shrubs with typically 30% - 70% combined cover. Wire Rapier-sedges (*Lepidosperma semiteres* and/or *Lepidosperma carphoides*) are common and widespread groundcovers.



Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) Low Woodland over a dense heath understorey. Cleland National Park (Source S Croft 2025).

Landform and aspect

Brown Stringybark most commonly occurs on moderate to steep hill slopes and ridges. Towards its drier rainfall limit (approximately 750 mm rainfall), Brown Stringybark may be more prevalent on south-facing aspects. However, with an increase in rainfall, Brown Stringybark occupies both north and southerly aspects, until at the highest rainfall limits (over 900 mm rainfall), largely occurring on northerly aspects (Specht and Perry 1948).

Soil types

Soils are well-drained, usually sandy or gravelly soils of low fertility (Nicolle 2013). Soils include gravelly grey sandy loams grading to sandy clay loams over bed rock of sandstone (DEWNR undated).

Rainfall

Brown Stringybark has a disjunct distribution in the higher rainfall areas of the region. Rainfall ranges from approximately 750 mm to 1000 mm per annum.

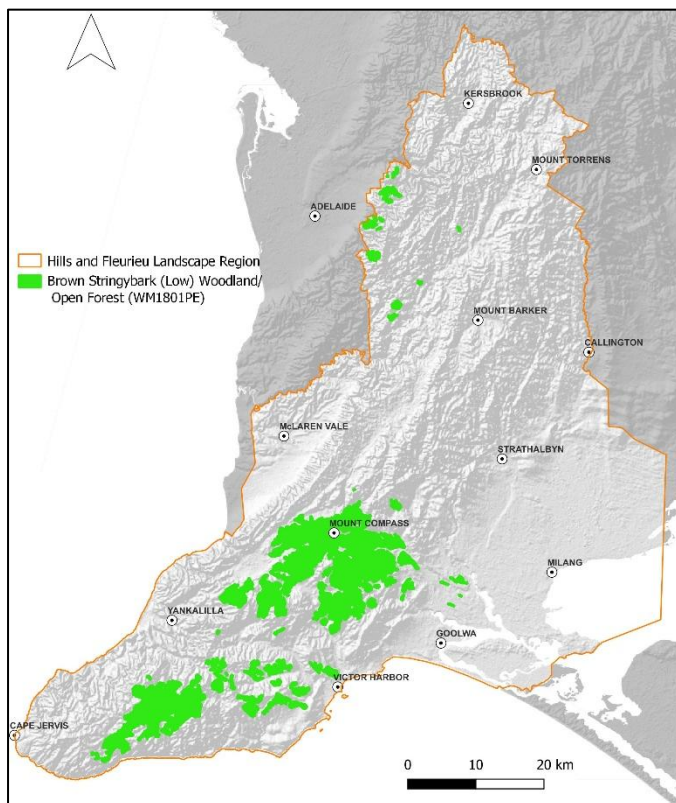


Figure 1: Pre-European mapping of Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) (Low) Woodland/ Open Forest within Hills and Fleurieu Landscape region

Distribution within the Hills and Fleurieu

The most extensive occurrence of Brown Stringybark Woodland/ Open Forest extends from Mt Compass almost continuously through to Deep Creek. Smaller occurrences occur in the Cleland, Bradbury and Longwood areas, including within Mark Oliphant Conservation Park. Of the approximately 23,000 ha mapped as being present prior to European settlement, approximately 1,800 ha has been mapped in the Department of Environment and Water's extant mapping layer (Data SA 2025).

Vegetation structural layers

Tree Layer

In this community, Brown Stringybark is generally single-trunked, and most commonly 7 m to 12 m tall. The canopy cover is variable, ranging from a combined canopy cover of 10% at lower soil moisture sites, up to 70% at sites on deeper, wetter soils. Although Brown Stringybark is the dominant overstorey tree, Messmate Stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) may be present as scattered trees at the higher rainfall range of this community and/or where soils are slightly more fertile. As rainfall and/or soil fertility increases, Messmate Stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) tends to become dominant (and is described as a separate community). Conversely, where soils become more skeletal and/or drier, Brown Stringybark may be multi-trunked and occur with Pink Gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*) and/or Cup Gum (*Eucalyptus cosmophylla*), and this is also described as a separately community, namely Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) +/- Pink Gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*) +/- Cup Gum (*Eucalyptus cosmophylla*) Low Woodland.

Shrub Layer

Mid-dense to densely spaced sclerophyll shrubs, typically including with Beaked Hakea (*Hakea rostrata*), Heath Tea-tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*), Common Oak-bush (*Allocasuarina muelleriana*), Large-leaf Bush-pea (*Pultenaea daphnoides*), Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*) and Yacca (*Xanthorrhoea semiplana* ssp. *semiplana*). The combined cover of shrubs is typically high, approximately 30% - 70% cover.

Groundcover Layer

Sedges and herbs, particularly Wire Rapier-sedge (*Lepidosperma semiteres*), Mount Lofty Mat-rush (*Lomandra fibrata*), Pale Fanflower (*Scaevola albida*) and Small-leaf Raspswort (*Gonocarpus tetragynus*) can form a dense ground cover.

Revegetation

A table of plant species likely to have occurred in this community is provided at the end of this document. Please note that the list includes species likely to occur across the plant community's entire range within the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape region. There may be other plant species that occurred on your property with a more restricted distribution. A native plant nurseries list can be found on the Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu website.

Caring for Country and native vegetation

This vegetation community reflects the landscapes and ecosystems that existed at the time of European colonisation. First Nations peoples have cared for these lands for thousands of years, maintaining deep connections to Country through knowledge, culture, and stewardship. This guide supports efforts to understand, protect and restore native vegetation in a way that respects those enduring relationships.

References

Data SA (2025). Native Vegetation Floristic Areas – NVIS – Statewide. *Government of South Australia*. <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/native-vegetation-floristic-areas-nvis-statewide>. Accessed April 2025.

DEWNR (undated). Soil Characterisation Site data sheet. CH139 Gradational Sandy Loam over Sandstone. *DEWNR Soil and Land Program*.

Nicolle, D (2013). Native Eucalypts of South Australia. *Lane Print and Post*, Adelaide.

Specht R and Perry R (1948) The Plant Ecology of the Mount Lofty Ranges. *Trans. Roy. Soc. South Aust.* 72 (1), 91 – 130.

Acknowledgment

We gratefully acknowledge the valuable work and research of the staff and volunteers of the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre and Botanic Gardens of South Australia. The information available on their public websites 'Seeds of South Australia' and affiliated 'www.szygium.xyz' has been widely referenced for the germination and propagation content of the Vegetation Community species lists.

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Preferred way to cite this information

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When citing multiple profiles:

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Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) (Low) Woodland/ Open Forest (WM1801PE)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Nursery Availability*	Propagation Method**	Seed Treatment***	Seed Propagation Difficulty****	Pollination	Links to further information
OVERSTOREY TREES (combined canopy cover typically 20 - 50%)							
<i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i>	Brown Stringybark	Y	S	N		Insect (Bees)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Myrtaceae/Eucalyptus/Eucalyptus_baxteri.html
UNDERSTOREY TREES (combined cover 1 - 2%)							
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	Y	S	HW, Sc		Insect (Native Bees, Honey Bees, Hoverflies, Butterflies, Moths, Beetles, Flies), Bird (Several species of Honeyeaters and Thornbills)	https://www.publish.csiro.au/BT/BT9880519
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Native Cherry	N	S, C	Sc	D	Insect	Exocarpos cupressiformis - Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)
MEDIUM AND TALL SHRUBS (combined cover 30 - 50%)							
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle	Y	S	HW, Sc		Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Fabaceae/Acacia/Acacia_myrtifolia.html
<i>Acrotriche fasciculiflora</i>	Mount Lofty Ground-berry	N	S		D	Insect (Ants)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Ericaceae/Acrotriche/Acrotriche_fasciculiflora.html
<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i> ssp. <i>muelleriana</i>	Common Oak-bush	Y	S	N		Wind	Slaty Sheoak TreeProject
<i>Allocasuarina striata</i>	Stalked Oak-bush	Y	S	CS		Wind	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Casuarinaceae/Allocasuarina/Allocasuarina_striata.html
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia	Y	S, C	N		Bird	https://aussiegreenthumb.com/silver-banksia-marginata-growing-guide/
<i>Daviesia brevifolia</i>	Leafless Bitter-pea	Y	S	HW		Insect (Bee)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Fabaceae/Daviesia/Daviesia_brevifolia.html
<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea	Y	S	HW		Insect (Bee)	https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/daviesia-leptophyllanarrow-leaf-bitter-pea/
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i> ssp. <i>incarnata</i>	Gorse Bitter-pea	Y	S	HW, Sc		Insect (Bee)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Fabaceae/Daviesia/Daviesia_ulicifolia_ssp_incarnata.html
<i>Hakea carinata</i>	Erect Hakea	Y	S	N		Insect	https://www.picturethisai.com/care/propagate/Hakea_carinata.html
<i>Hakea rostrata</i>	Beaked Hakea	Y	S	N		Insect	Hakea rostrata • Australian Native Plants • Plants • 800.701.6517
<i>Isopogon ceratophyllus</i>	Cone Bush	Y	S, C	N		Insect, Birds, Bush Rat, Pygmy Possum	https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/isopogon-ceratophyllus/

Scientific Name	Common Name	Nursery Availability*	Propagation Method**	Seed Treatment***	Seed Propagation Difficulty****	Pollination	Links to further information
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree	Y	S, C	N		Insect	https://www.anbg.gov.au/leptospermum/leptospermum-myrsinoides.html
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i> var. <i>virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath	N	S, C	St		Insect	https://wtlandcare.org/details/leucopogon-virgatus/
<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Holly Flat-pea	Y	S, C	N, Sm		Insect (Bees)	https://treeproject.org.au/seedlings/common-flat-pea/
<i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i>	Large-leaf Bush Pea	Y	S, C	HW, Sc		Insect (Bees)	https://treeproject.org.au/seedlings/large-leaf-bush-pea-or-bitter-pea/
<i>Pultenaea involucrata</i>	Mount Lofty Bush-pea	N	S, C	HW, Sc		Insect (Bees)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Fabaceae/Pultenaea/Pultenaea_involucrata.html
<i>Pultenaea trinervis</i>	Three-nerve Bush-pea	N	S, C	HW, Sc		Insect (Bees)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Fabaceae/Pultenaea/Pultenaea_trinervis.html
<i>Senecio odoratus</i> var. <i>odoratus</i>	Scented Groundsel	Y	C	N		Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Asteraceae/Senecio/Senecio_odoratus.html
<i>Spyridium thymifolium</i>	Thyme-leaf Spyridium	N	S	HW, Sc		Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Rhamnaceae/Spyridium/Spyridium_thymifolium.html
<i>Spyridium vexilliferum</i>	Winged Spyridium	N	S	HW, Sc		Insect	https://www.picturethisai.com/care/propagate/Spyridium_vexilliferum.html
<i>Stenanthera conostephioides</i>	Flame Heath	N	S, C	HW, Sc, GA	D	Bird	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Ericaceae/Stenanthera/Stenanthera_conostephioides.html
<i>Xanthorrhoea semiplana</i> ssp. <i>semiplana</i>	Yacca	Y	S	N		Insect (Honey Bees, Butterflies, Beetles)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Asphodelaceae/Xanthorrhoea/Xanthorrhoea_semiplana_ssp._semiplana.html
SMALL SHRUBS (combined cover 10 - 30%)							
<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Cushion Ground-berry	N	S, C, D	N	D	Mammals (Possums, Rodents)	https://www.botanikks.com/plants/acrotriche-serrulata/586467/1
<i>Dillwynia hispida</i>	Red Parrot-pea	Y	S, C	HW		Insect	Dillwynia hispida
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath	N	S, C	DS, HW	D	Bird, Insect (Native Bees, Butterflies)	https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/epacris-impressa/
<i>Hibbertia devitata</i>	Smooth Guinea-flower	N	C		D	Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Dilleniaceae/Hibbertia/Hibbertia_devitata.html
<i>Styphelia humifusa</i>	Cranberry Heath	N	C	N	D	Bird, Insect (Wasps, Moths, Beetles)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Ericaceae/Styphelia/Styphelia_exarrhena.html
MAT PLANTS (combined cover 1 - 5%)							
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Scarlet Runner	Y	S, C	HW		Insect (Bees)	https://treeproject.org.au/seedlings/running-postman/

Scientific Name	Common Name	Nursery Availability*	Propagation Method**	Seed Treatment***	Seed Propagation Difficulty****	Pollination	Links to further information
<i>Schoenus breviculmis</i>	Matted Bog-rush	N					https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Cyperaceae/Schoenus/Schoenus_breviculmis.html
SEDGE/ TUSsocks (combined cover 1 - 10%)							
<i>Dianella revoluta</i> var. <i>revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	Y	S, D	N		Insect (Native Bees (buzz pollination))	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Asphodelaceae/Dianella/Dianella_revoluta_var._revoluta.html
<i>Lepidosperma semiteres</i>	Wire Rapier-sedge	N	S, D			Wind	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Cyperaceae/Lepidosperma/Lepidosperma_semiteres.html
<i>Lomandra fibrata</i>	Mount Lofty Mat-rush	N	S, D	N		Insect (Bees, Butterflies, Beetles)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Asparagaceae/Lomandra/Lomandra_fibrata.html
<i>Lomandra micrantha</i> ssp. <i>micrantha</i>	Small-flower Mat-rush	Y	S, D	N	D	Insect (Bees, Butterflies, Beetles)	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Asparagaceae/Lomandra/Lomandra_micrantha_ssp._micrantha.html
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i> ssp. <i>dura</i>	Hard Mat-rush	Y	S, D	N		Insect (Bees, Butterflies, Beetles)	FACT-SHEET Lomandra multiflora.pdf
TWINER/ SCRAMBLERS (combined cover < 1%)							
<i>Billardiera cymosa</i> ssp. <i>cymosa</i>	Sweet Apple-berry	Y	S, D, C	N		Insect	Billardiera cymosa — Fleurieu Environment Centre
<i>Cassytha glabella</i> f. <i>dispar</i>	Slender Dodder-laurel	Y	S	N		Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Lauraceae/Cassytha/Cassytha_glabella_f._dispar.html
HERBS (combined cover 1 - 10%)							
<i>Caesia calliantha</i>	Blue Grass-lily	Y	S	CS		Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Asphodelaceae/Caesia/Caesia_calliantha.html
<i>Cheiranthra alternifolia</i>	Hand-flower	Y	C	N		Bird, Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Pittosporaceae/Cheiranthra/Cheiranthra_alternifolia.html
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	Small-leaf Raspwort	Y	S, C	N	D	insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Haloragaceae/Gonocarpus/Gonocarpus_tetragynus.html
<i>Goodenia blackiana</i>	Native Primrose	N	S, C	So	D	Insect	https://www.picturethisai.com/care/propagate/Goodenia_blackiana.html
<i>Laxmannia orientalis</i>	Dwarf Wire-lily	N	S, D			Wind?	Communities
<i>Persoonia juniperina</i>	Prickly Geebung	N	S, C		D	Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Proteaceae/Persoonia/Persoonia_juniperina.html
<i>Pimelea octophylla</i>	Woolly Riceflower	N	S, C			Insect	https://www.botanicalrealm.com/plant-identification/woolly-rice-flower-pimelea-octophylla/
<i>Scaevola albida</i>	Pale Fanflower	Y	S, C	N		Insect (Bees, Butterflies)	Scaevola-albida-Small-fruit-Fanflower.pdf
<i>Tetradlea pilosa</i>	Hairy Pink-bells	Y	C, S	Sm	D	Insect	Search

Scientific Name	Common Name	Nursery Availability*	Propagation Method**	Seed Treatment***	Seed Propagation Difficulty****	Pollination	Links to further information
<i>Tricoryne tenella</i>	Tufted Yellow Rush-lily	N	D			Insect	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Asphodelaceae/Tricoryne/Tricoryne_tenella.html
<i>Viola sieberiana</i>	Tiny Violet	N	D			Insect	https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/viola-sieberiana/
<i>Xanthosia huegelii</i>	Hairy Xanthosia	N	S			Insect	https://www.botanicalrealm.com/plant-identification/heath-xanthosia-xanthosia-huegelii/
GRASSES (combined cover < 1%)							
<i>Austrostipa mollis</i>	Soft Spear-grass	Y	S	N		Wind	https://syzygium.xyz/saplants/Poaceae/Austrostipa/Austrostipa_mollis.html

If cells are blank, no information was readily available at the time of writing.

* Nursery Availability

N = No

Y = Yes

** Propagation Method

C = Cuttings

D = Division

S = Seedlings

***Seed Treatment Code	Treatment name	Procedure
CS	Cold Storage	Stored at 3 to 5 degrees Celsius
DS	Dark Storage	Seed stored out of direct sunlight
GA	Gibberelic Acid	
HW	Hot Water	Water just off the boil poured over the seed and allowed to stand for 8 - 24 hours
N	None	
Sc	Scarify	Mechanical abrasion of seed coat e.g. lightly scratch with sandpaper
Sm	Smoke	Soaking seeds in smoke water
So	Soak	Seed placed in rainwater for 24 hours
St	Stratify	Seed placed in freezer for 2 weeks
****Seed Propagation Difficulty		

D= Difficult