

What have we got here?



A Special Landscape

Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands are a very special part of the landscape of eastern Australia. They consist of large scattered eucalypt trees, native grasses and wildflowers.

Most of these woodlands have been cleared to become highly productive farms. In fact, so much land has been cleared that only about 5 per cent of these woodlands have survived and they are now listed as endangered.

- Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands have open tree canopies and grassy understoreys.
- They look like wild parks with lots of open space between the trees and carpets of native grasses and wildflowers.
- Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands are dominated by eucalyptus species including White box, Yellow box and Blakely's red gum.
- Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands occur on fertile soils throughout South-Eastern Australia (also known as the Wheat-Sheep Belt of Eastern Australia).
- Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands are home to hundreds of native plants and animal species, including many threatened species.
- Due to land clearing over the last 150 years, as well as the introduction of weeds and feral animals, there is now less than 5% of original Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands left.
- Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands are classed as Critically Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
- School students can help Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands by undertaking creative activities in the classroom - read about the environment and use web-based learning.
- Outdoors, students can help by weeding and planting native trees and by just enjoying nature.



Activities



A Special Landscape

1. What does canopy and understorey mean in the woodlands?
2. What are the three species of Eucalypts mentioned?
3. Where do Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands occur? What is the name of this area?
4. How much original Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands are left in Australia?
5. What are Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands now classed as?
6. Why are they classed as this?
7. How can you as a student help Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands for future generations?
8. Is there any Box-gum grassy woodland near our school?
9. Draw a picture of what you think a Box-Gum Grassy Woodland would look like.

