

The Ease Rating

The Report application in version 4 has a new column which indicates how easy a plant will be to establish. When results first appear in this application, they are sorted so that the easiest plants are at the top of the list. The intention of the eVegGuide is to recommend plants that are comparatively easy to establish, whenever possible.

The original values for the ease rating for native plants are from Calscape, and represent the experience of many native plant gardeners. eVegGuide editors have since added new values or modified the original values to be consistent with the purposes of the eVegGuide.

Possible values are as follows:

3 Easy (*typically* a combination of low to no seed dormancy; and/or high seedling vigor; and/or no need for seed preconditioning or seedbed supplementation by nutrients or microbial augmentation; and/or initially establishes well under normal precipitation amounts only, with little or no need for supplemental irrigation).

2 Moderately Easy (*typically* a combination of low seed dormancy; and/or moderately high seedling vigor; and/or low requirement for seed preconditioning or seedbed supplementation by nutrients or microbial augmentation; and/or initially establishes well under favorable precipitation amounts, with occasional need for light supplemental irrigation).

1 Slightly Difficult (*typically* a combination of moderate seed dormancy; and/or moderate seedling vigor; and/or moderate requirement for seed preconditioning or seedbed supplementation by nutrients or microbial augmentation; and/or initial establishment typically requiring moderate supplemental irrigation).

Mixtures also have an ease rating that represents an average of the ease ratings of the component plants.

Where species are shown as available as seed, or as both seed and non-seed (i.e., transplants – containerized, plugs, sprigs, etc.) plant materials, the rating definitions are more oriented toward plant establishment from **seed**. For transplant materials only (i.e., not available as seed), ratings relate to field transplant establishment based on Calscape “Ease of Care” (i.e., post-establishment maintenance) ratings and eVegGuide editor experience (and also assumes that proper planting procedures and establishment care are duly followed).

These ease rating definitions incorporate the relative need for supplemental irrigation, which is also a separate rating for species in the eVegGuide. As such, the need for irrigation should be confirmed and cross-referenced by irrigation requirement for species that are used in those conservation practices for which irrigation is applicable.