



eVegGuide USER'S MANUAL

**USDA-NRCS
California**

February 2025

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The California NRCS **eVegGuide** (electronic Vegetative Guide) is a technical, digital tool for examining and selecting adapted species (as transplants or seed material) for NRCS applied land conservation practices. An eVegGuide revegetation recommendation report summarizes recommended species, and related planting recommendations for NRCS clients – to enable implementation of a particular conservation practice that involves revegetation measures at a chosen location in California.

The eVegGuide is a sub-section of the California eFOTG (electronic Field Office Technical Guide). It contains the most recent technical information synthesized and compiled from the California Plant Materials Program (including the Lockeford Plant Materials Center), the USDA PLANTS database, NRCS California Ecological Science technical discipline specialists, and Calflora. Further information and documentation is available from the California [eFOTG web page](#).

This User's Manual provides a sequential, step-by-step instructional approach to providing familiarity with, and utilitarian application of the major features and functional aspects of the eVegGuide. The Manual is divided into Sections 1.0 through 6.0, each of which provides detailed instruction on major modules of the eVegGuide. Each section is designed to serve as a stand-alone instructional aide, and can be reviewed independently from other sections. Studying this User's Manual in sectional sequence, however, can provide additional advantages for understanding and applying the capabilities of the eVegGuide as a complete technical tool.

One primary purpose and function of the eVegGuide is to provide information and guidance to the user (conservation planner) in relation to NRCS conservation practices and practice purposes that require revegetation measures in some form. One aspect of this guidance is enabled by built-in sub-programs that, when elected for use, help the planner constrain or tailor species searches and mixture formulation by specific environmental parameters that may narrow the focus of species recommendations. Enabling these parameters, singly or in any combination of multiple parameters, allows the eVegGuide to constrain (i.e., reduce) the list of species for a given practice and practice purpose to those that are *recommended by NRCS as being best adapted to specific physiographic features or site characteristics that are ecological sub-units of MLRA's*, in relation to the selected revegetation site. The environmental constraint process in the eVegGuide attempts to stratify the environment physiographically by its probable response to disturbance, planned management measures, and/or planned conservation treatments.

Planners are required to use these lists of species, however, if the planner's field experience and professional judgment indicate otherwise, a variance may be requested through the Area Office Specialist, and approved by the State Office Specialist by the Responsible Discipline (State Agronomist, State Biologist, State Forester, State Rangeland Management Specialist, etc).

The choice of which species to use on a given revegetation site, and in a given revegetation mixture formulation, still resides with the planner. The eVegGuide species selection process, including use of optional environmental constraints, is designed to serve as a guide that augments and technically supports the planner's knowledge, experience, and professional judgment. The eVegGuide is a living document, and may be updated as needed.

For further information and guidance for this User's Manual, please contact:

Manager
Lockeford Plant Materials Center
21001 N. Elliott Road
P.O. Box 68
Lockeford, CA 95237-0068
209-727-5319 office
209-727-5923 fax

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/plantmaterials/pmc/west/capmc/>