



Go Botany!



Integrated Tools to Advance Botanical Learning

08-40186

Our goal is to create customized floras, interactive web tools, and educational materials about plants for everyone.

The Challenge:



Harness the fun, attraction, and power of new technologies to entice people to get outdoors, explore plants, and share their excitement!

To communicate how important plants are to the ecology of the planet and human health, we must devise new ways to engage people – especially technology-oriented and primarily urban youth -- in observing, identifying, and learning about plants. Yet “plant-blindness” afflicts many people, who see the world as uniformly green and are intimidated by botany and science generally.

www.newenglandwild.org/gobotany



Our partners:

We're working with:

Montshire Museum of Science (Norwich, VT)

Developing a colorful **Hemlock Holmes** exhibit to get visitors of all ages, including home-schooled rural youth, using keys to identify plants

Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History (New Haven, CT)

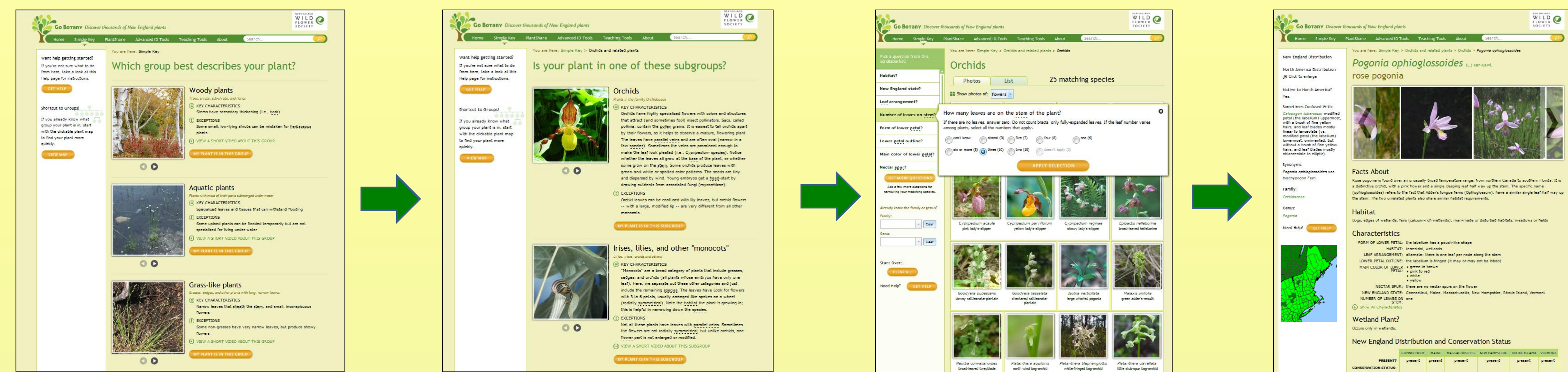
Engaging after-school urban students in identifying the plants of the new **West Campus**

Chewonki Foundation (Wiscasset, ME)

Students are collaborating to develop a **flora** of Chewonki Neck and the Maine islands. Land trusts will use Go Botany to inventory their protected lands.

Smithsonian Institution (Edgewater, MD)

Why stop at New England? Go Botany software can be exported nationally to any institution seeking to develop an educational website tailored to their regional flora. Scientists at the Smithsonian Institution will use our software to develop an interactive key to the orchids of North America as part of the new North American Orchid Conservation Center.



Select the group your plant is in... and the subgroup (helpful videos!...) Answer the questions you choose, see sample photos...here's your plant! Thousands of beautiful photos and lots of information about distribution, rarity, interesting facts and uses, and so much more! We thank the Biota of North America Program (BONAP) for maps.

The Tools:

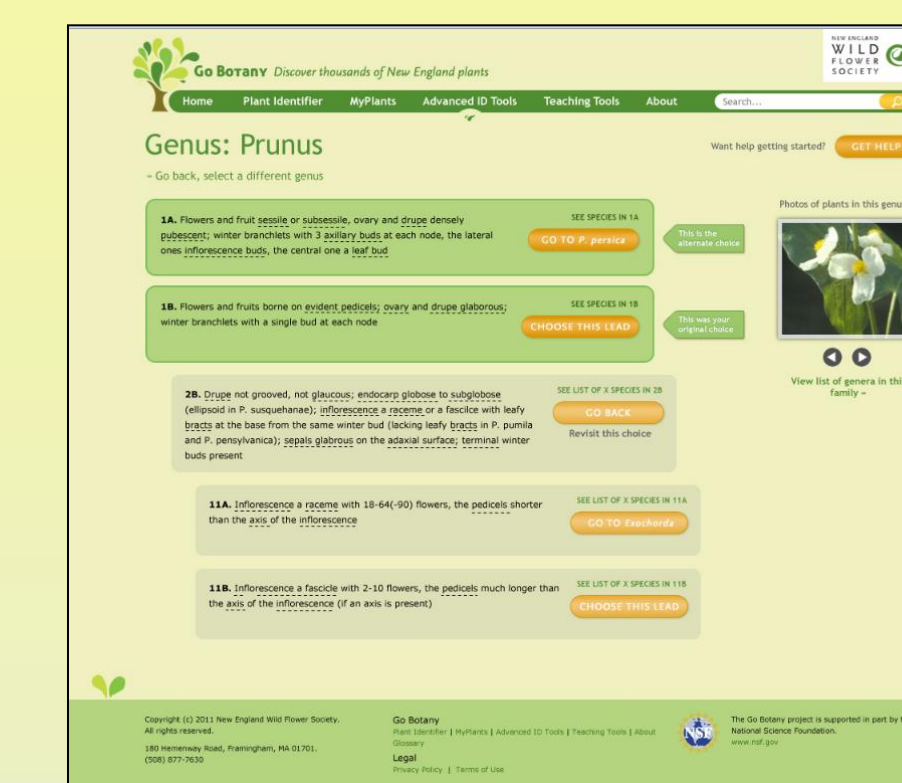
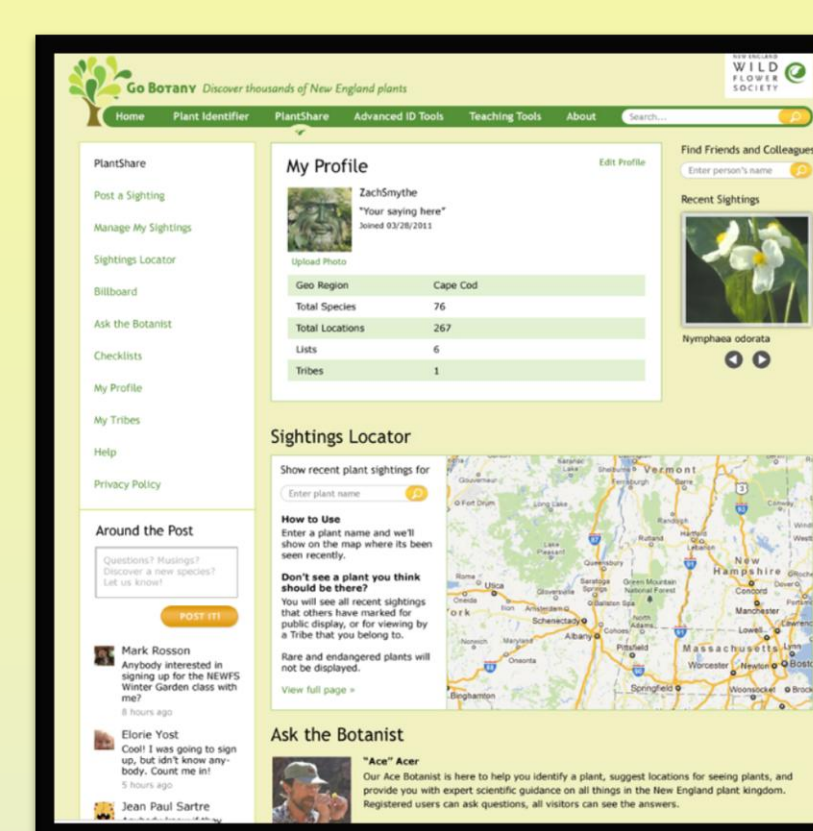
Interactive simple key to 1,200 plant species!

Our flexible, user-friendly interactive key enables you to identify species based on the features of the plant – leaves, flowers, winter buds, bark, etc. – you are able to observe at any time of the year. Using innovative information-gain algorithms, this dynamic key asks you the questions about your plant that most efficiently help you hone in on your species, based on the questions you have already answered. Minimal jargon, and every term defined and illustrated. Access it in the field, anywhere you have a web connection.



PlantShare!

Join a community of plant enthusiasts and create and share checklists and photographs of species you have seen. Have a question? Here's your chance to ask a botanist mentor. Teachers, use this in your labs to create a flora of your schoolyard. Share your curricula and workshop ideas with other science educators!



Advanced keys to 3,500 taxa!

Use our interactive key to identify 3,500 species, subspecies, and varieties native and naturalized in New England. We also provide clickable dichotomous keys to these taxa – no more flipping pages through a conventional field guide.

