

# It's Not on the Inventory List: Tracking Plants in a Semi-naturalized Meadow

---

Julie Rotramel: Plant Recorder

M<sup>T</sup>.CUBA  
CENTER







# Various Interests in How Plant Information is Maintained

- **Plant Recorder:** Data Integrity, data consistency
- **Director of Collections:** Conservation priorities, wild collected accessions
- **Horticulture Staff:** Ability to find physical plantings
- **Education:** Plant Lists, mapped locations

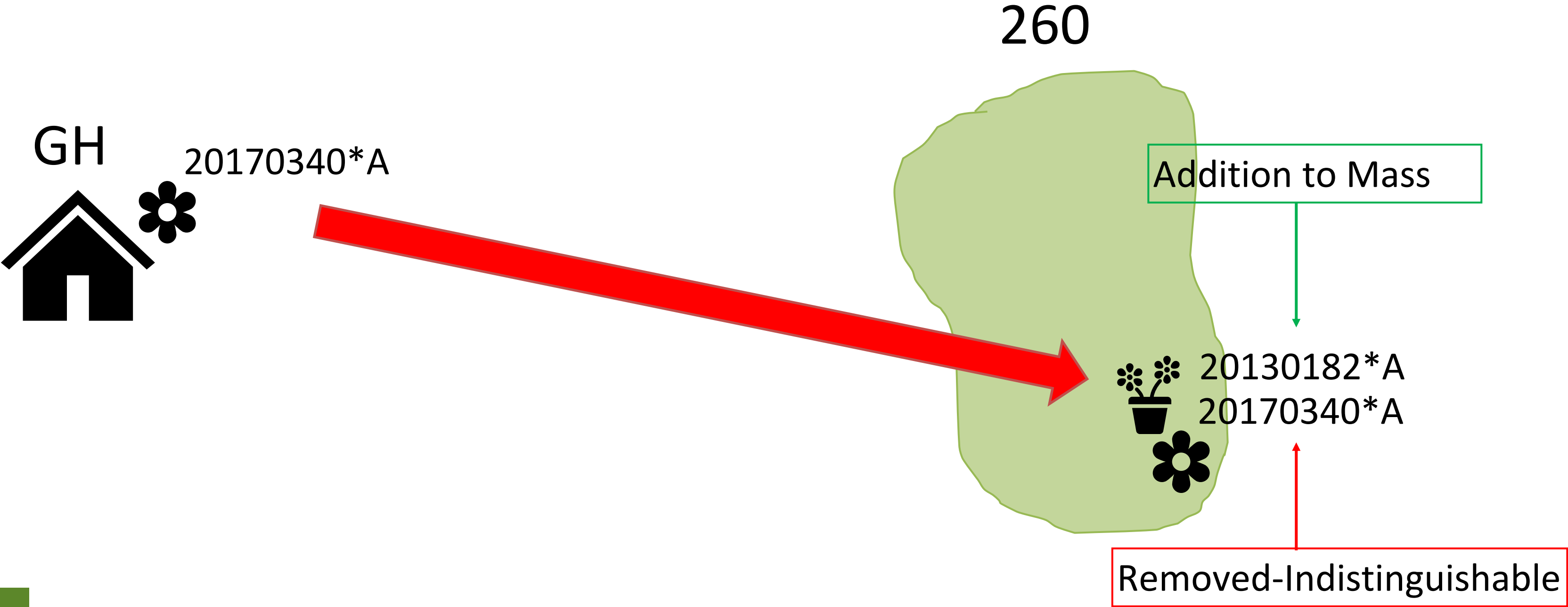
# The Meadow

- The meadow is mowed every year, so labels are maintained only on the periphery
- Plants are mapped generally on the periphery where distinct plant masses can be distinguished and labeled.
- Central portion of meadow is naturalized and is consistently supplemented with new plant material

M<sup>T</sup>.CUBA  
CENTER



# Indistinguishable Plantings



Item Status Type: Not Existing

Item Status: Removed- Indistinguishable

Items							
Item no.°	Type°	Location°	Loc. ref.~	Status°	Date~	No. sp.	...
A	Planting	260•		Removed- In...	9/13/2018	mass	
A	Planting	GH•		Inventoried	1/18/2018	70	
A	Planting	GH•		Planted	7/13/2017	mass	
A	Planting	UNKNOWN•		Inventoried	1/13/2017		
B	Propagation	COMPLETE•		Complete- To Ga...	9/13/2018		

“13 plants removed from greenhouse and added to existing mass of *Cirsium pumilum* (20130182\*A) in bed 260, indistinguishable”

#### Item properties

Item no.	Current	20170340*A		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Type°	Planting			
[-] References				
Cons. no.~	Cons. no.-2~			
Storage no.°	External ref.~			
Item ref.				
[-] Location				
Location code°	260•			
Location name°	Meadow			
Location ref.~	subref.~			
Coord. lat.  x	long.  y			
Coord. precision	Altitude			
[-] Status				
Status°	Removed- Indistinguishable			
Condition°	No. specimens		mass	
Date~	Person°	9/13/2018	Tinalli, Emily	
Label type-1°	no.	status°	...	
Label type-2°	no.	status°	...	
[+] Measurements (foot - decimal)				
[+] Material				
Restriction°				
Comments~	13 remaining plants removed from GH and added to existing mass of <i>Cirsium pumilum</i> (20130182*A...			
Reg. init.	date	jer	10/22/2020	

Item Status Type: Existing

Item Status: Addition to Mass

Items							
Item no. °	Type °	Location °	Loc. ref. ~	Status °	Date ~	No. sp.	...
A	Planting	260•		Addition to Mass	10/15/2019	mass	
A	Planting	260•		Addition to Mass	9/13/2018	mass	
A	Planting	260•		Planted	11/12/2014	mass	
A	Planting	GH•		Seed Sown	5/21/2014	900	
A	Planting	GH•		Received	8/1/2013	mass	
B	Propagation	COMPLETE•		Complete- To Gar...	11/12/2014		

“13 plants from 20170340\*A removed from greenhouse and added to existing mass”

#### Item properties

Item no.	Current	20130182*A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type °	Planting		
References			
Cons. no. ~	Cons. no.-2 ~		
Storage no. °	External ref. ~		
Item ref.			
Location			
Location code °	260•		
Location name °	Meadow		
Location ref. ~	subref. ~		
Coord. lat.  x	long.  y		
Coord. precision	Altitude		
Status			
Status °	Addition to Mass		
Condition °	No. specimens	mass	
Date ~	Person °	9/13/2018	Tinalli, Emily
Label type-1 °	no.	status °	
Label type-2 °	no.	status °	
Measurements (foot - decimal)			
Material			
Restriction °			
Comments ~	13 plants from 20170340*A removed from GH and added to existi...		



# Indistinguishable Plantings

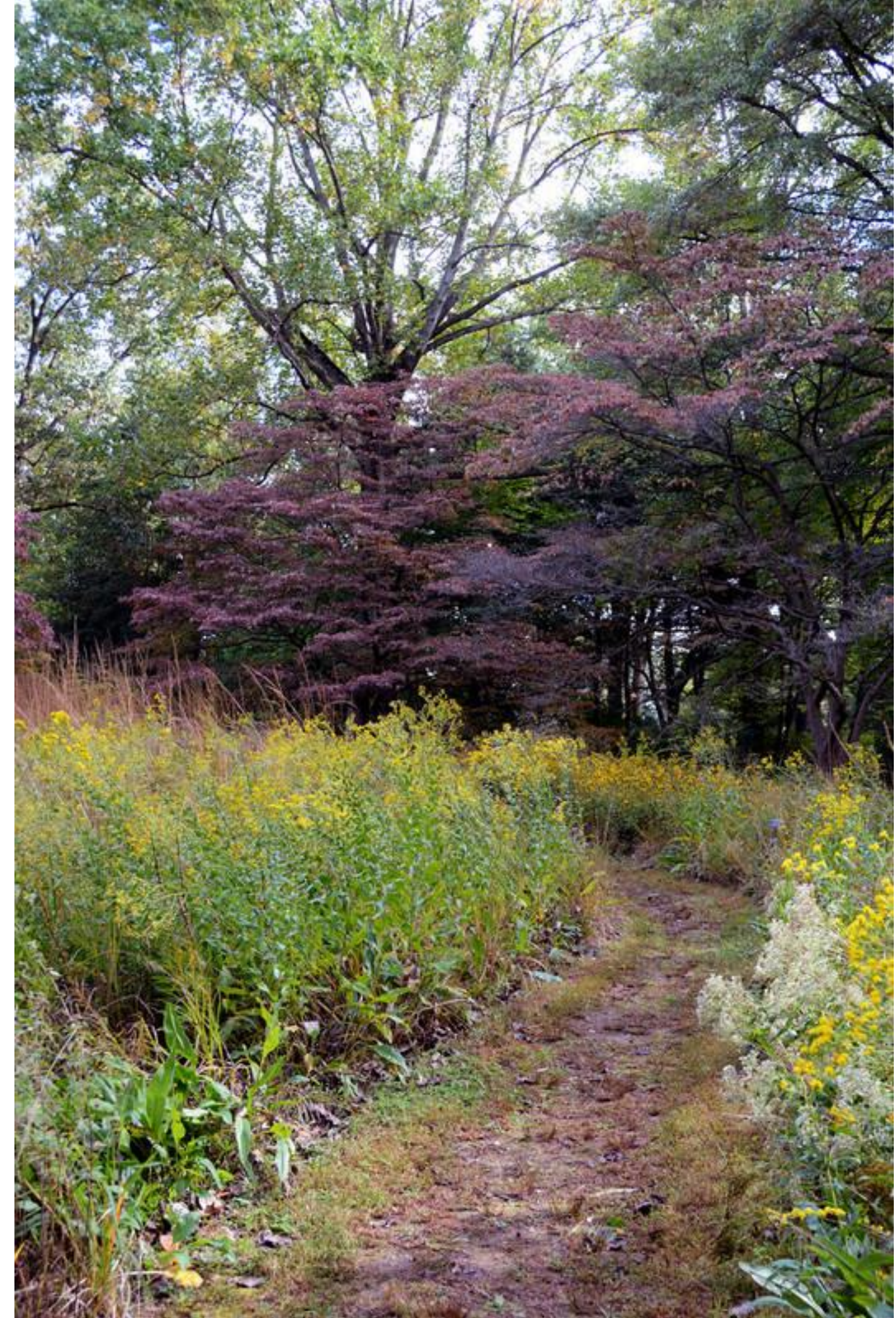
## Advantages:

- Keeps the inventory list clean
- Non-existing report output will show all plantings that were added to the bed if we want a full list of plant material

## Disadvantages:

- Provenance of the existing mass is mixed, and not reflected in the database record

M<sup>T</sup>.CUBA  
CENTER

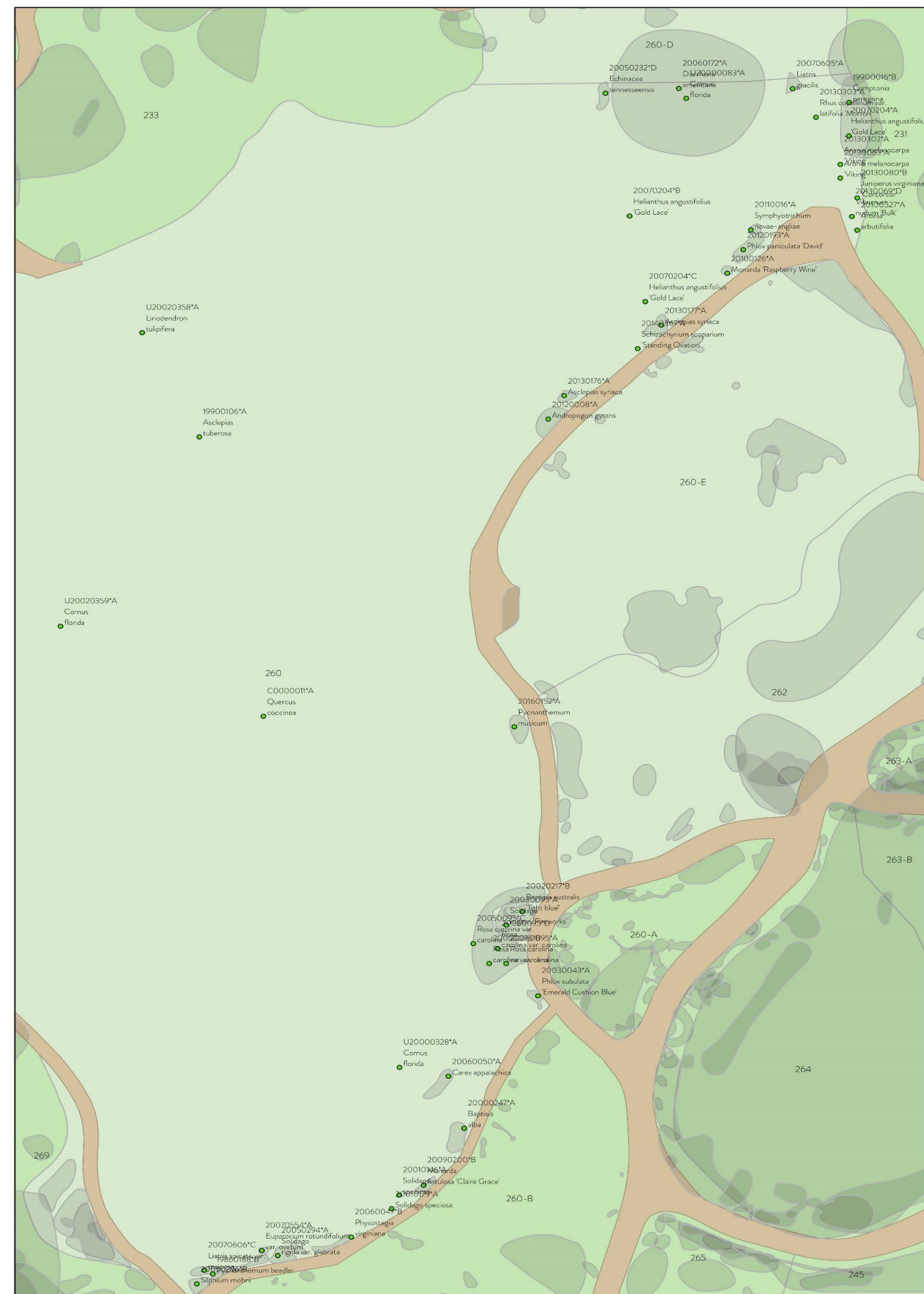




# Conflicts Between Records and Physical Plantings

- When the meadow was first created, many species that were planted and expected to naturalize were deaccessioned immediately
- In IrisBG this translates to a Non-existing item status type
- As a result, some species do not show up on the 'existing' meadow inventory list at all, despite their clear presence in that area.

MT. CUBA  
CENTER





# Questions for Discussion

1

How might you manage plant records in the meadow while keeping in mind the needs of each of the interest groups?

Can all of these needs be satisfied with one solution?

2

What do you see as the value or purpose of maintaining provenance information in a naturalized setting?

To what extent do you think it needs to be maintained in this situation?

3

Given its existing functionality, how might you track additions to a naturalized planting accession in IrisBG beyond an entry in the item history?

Could custom attributes help with this problem?

M<sup>T</sup>.CUBA  
CENTER



A scenic autumn landscape featuring a dirt path covered in fallen leaves, leading through tall, golden-brown grass. The path is flanked by lush greenery and trees with vibrant red, orange, and yellow foliage. In the background, a dense forest of tall, thin trees is visible under a soft, overcast sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene, capturing the beauty of the fall season.

Thank  
You