Go Botany

A Whole New Way to Learn About Plants

New England Wild Flower Society brings botany into the 21st century! Go Botany harnesses the power of the web to provide you with new tools for learning and teaching about plants. Whether you're a beginner or a professional botanist, use Go Botany to identify thousands of native and naturalized plant species of New England in the field or your desktop.

It's free and open to everyone at www.newenglandwild.org/gobotany

Go Botany builds on the Flora
Novae Angliae by Arthur Haines
(Yale University Press, 2011), the most
comprehensive book on the plants
of the region available in fifty years.
Although Go Botany focuses on
plants of New England, anyone in
northeastern North America, from
Canada to the coastal plain, will find
it a valuable botanical resource.

Our Partners

Go Botany can be tailored to any locality or region with a documented list of plants. Thus, we are working with three institutional partners to develop on-line floras for their unique settings, and exhibits and workshops related to plants:

- Montshire Museum of Science (Vermont) is creating an innovative exhibit on plants for its visitors, including the interactive Hemlock Holmes kiosk where you solve plant mysteries
- Chewonki Foundation (Maine) students and teachers will use Go Botany to create a checklist of the flora of Chewonki Neck and Maine islands
- Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History (Connecticut) engages urban students in identifying the plants of its new West Campus

Our Collaborators and Funders

Go Botany is funded by the National Science Foundation and generous donations.

Go Botany is the product of many innovative programmers, creative designers, and educational evaluators, including Jazkarta (Boston), VisionLogic (Boston), Fresh Tilled Soil (Waltham), and Lesley University Program Evaluation Research Group. We also thank the many volunteers, interns, and educators who have given generously of their time, photos, and skills to develop Go Botany!

For more information email gobotany@newenglandwild.org



Conserving and promoting the region's native plants to ensure healthy, biologically diverse landscapes





Go Botany Tools



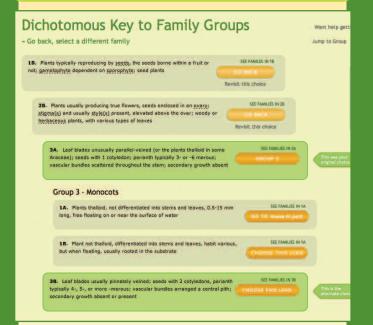
Simple Key ID



Want to know what plant that is?

- Identify over 1200 of the more common native and naturalized species of plants with ease.
- First, choose what broad group your mystery plant belongs to; we provide videos, text, and photographs to help you categorize your plant.
- Then, answer some easy questions about the features of the plant you can see, like bark and buds in mid-winter or flowers and fruits in summer – you choose! The Simple Key ID is smart, giving you questions based on the answers you've already made. It's also friendly, minimizing jargon and instantly giving illustrated, pop-up definitions of botanical terms. The Key provides you with images and summary information about your possible matches, so you can quickly determine your plant by the process of elimination.
- Once you've arrived at a species, visit its information page to learn lots more: fun facts and uses, maps of the species' range, gorgeous photos, information about all its features, look-alike species, and whether it's native, invasive, or rare in New England.

Advanced ID Tools



Already know a lot about plants, or getting more experienced?

- Our Full Key uses the same friendly interface as our Simple Key, but you can identify all 3500 species, subspecies, and varieties of plants in the New England flora.
- Or, use our Dichotomous Key to identify plants.
 This is no ordinary traditional key, though; it's clickable and interactive, allowing you to trace your steps, change your choices, and key to families or genera.

PlantShare



Our on-line forum connects you with other plant enthusiasts to create and share checklists and photographs of species you have seen.

- Students can collaborate to assemble lists of plants in their schoolyard.
- Keep a map of all the plants you have seen, and view other members' discoveries.
- Have a question about a plant you're trying to identify? Consult our online Expert Botanist or your community of PlantShare members, and get answers!

Tools for Teachers

Looking for new ways to engage your students? We'll provide a forum where you can share how you use Go Botany in your curriculum. Go Botany is designed to help you meet teaching standards

- Use our innovative technology to get your students looking carefully at plants, building skills to identify them, and searching for
 particular species they want to know more about.
- Students can use Go Botany outdoors with a tablet computer anywhere they have a web connection, or in the lab to key out plant specimens they have collected.
- You can even develop a customized checklist of your schoolyard, backyard, or environmental center.
- During 2012-2013, we'll be offering free workshops all over New England specifically for formal and informal science educators.