Questions Asked / Comments:

- I know we need plants that bloom all seasons - does this tool cover that?
  - Yes! You are able to select from a list of 12 bloom months when submitting your search criteria!
- I'm up the Gunflint Trail. It seems we have an ecosystem that varies even "up the Trail" (mid Trail, upper Trail) - is there any way to figure out specifics to our areas?
  - If you are able to identify specific site characteristics (soil type, pH, soil depth, etc.) and choose the criteria that match your site, that will go a long way toward customizing your species list to match your area. In addition, in the "advanced search" options, you can select which eco province you are in. With eco province and eco region both selected, you will narrow your climatic and geologic area to be more finely tuned to your inland location.
- Any information on projecting which species are migrating North,
  - The best way to do this would be to look at species that are currently growing in the ecoregion or eco province to your south. Or, if you live in an area that is expected to become more dry, look for species that are currently listed in the ecoregion or eco province to your west.
- Maybe an off-topic question, but I am curious how far a garden should be from a high human traffic area? The site would be near a porch/deck that is used as a daily entrance
  - If your concern is bee stings, then it might be a good idea not to have pollinator attracting plants draping over your outdoor porch swing or similar. But other than that, there are no real concerns regarding proximity to high-traffic areas. Pollinators are much more interested in obtaining nectar to fuel their foraging than in humans.
- I have planted Royal Catch Fly in Metro, from IA/MO, and it came back .. found at Native resource in WI.
  - Yes, many plants that have historically been present to our south are now surviving further north. Micro-site characteristics can contribute to this as well (e.g. protection from winter extremes, southern exposures, etc.)
- Will the database be updated when natives come to market.
  - At this time there is no plan to adapt the data base to match nursery inventories, although that is definitely an idea that has been discussed. This would involve significant investment on the part of nurseries to report their inventories, or to upgrade to electronic inventories….
- We received the lawn to legumes grant and are planning to use it for a shoreline restoration project. We had Joe pye weed that the bumble bees loved! Do we add seeds or plant established plants? Our shoreline was unfortunately moved by a large ice ridge. Our cabin is in the Grand Rapids area.
  - Planting plugs is great for getting your plants established quickly. Small plugs are cheaper and experience less transplant shock than larger plants. Seeds are cheaper and can be used to cover more area. Using

    - both might be a good strategy if you'd like to get your plants established quickly, but would like to also cover a lot of area on a budget. Broadcasting seed between plugs is a good way to accomplish this.
- Thinking about pollinator gardens vs rain gardens, will there be different plants selected for each? For example are there plants that are better for rain gardens, because they take up more water or have deeper root systems? Just wondering if there is a way to differentiate goals, stormwater runoff vs pollinators?
    - There are many plants that would work for both project types. There are definitely some plants that might be good for one but not the other. The criteria available in the tool would definitely allow you to specify which goals are important to you (either in the project type field or in many of the other fields that are specific to pollinator value or inundation tolerance, etc.). Using these criteria, you *could* generate a list of plants that would work in a rain garden *and* function as a pollinator garden, or you could generate a longer list of plants that are suitable for one or the other types of projects.
- Do you have a strategy for evaluating light exposure at a site over time?
    - John Bly suggested observing your site over the course of a day, keeping in mind the sun will be higher/lower depending on the season. He also suggested you might be able to estimate the number of hours of sunlight in a particular spot by using the width of your hand, held an arm's length from your eyes, to measure the distance between tall buildings or trees that may block the sun during portions of the day. One hand-width, held an arm's length from your face, is approximately 1 hour of daylight.