How is the user going to input data points? A form? A picture?

As little typing as possible. Clicking on images, buttons. Swiping.

What kind of data should be used?

Plant phenology stages: leafing out, full leaf, beginning flowering, full flower, etc. The data depend on the type of plant.

Should there be a map of all the plants people have found?

Yes, that would be ideal. An individual will see all his/her plants but someone else won’t be able to see those until they are found.

Should this be multi-user, or single user?

Single user per mobile device.

What is the incentive to revisit plants? Points?

Points, badges, levels. Knowing that your data is helping Biologists and Climate Scientists. Leaving and reading messages other players have left. Establishing new plants that a player is “owner” of. Some sort of social interaction for those that want it.

What platforms should this be on? Apple, Android, Computer?

I am mostly familiar with Android and it is much easier to make a release. If we construct a game that is successful, moving to Apple would be desirable, but probably not right away.

Should the app UI change with the seasons? Like color for example?

I love this idea. I would very much like to explore push notifications to let players know that there are plants in the vicinity that need to be visited.

Should there be a description of the plant based upon an internet search?

Descriptions will be part of the information displayed. We will initially focus on campus trees.

Will pictures be a big part of this project?

Pictures of the plants can be used for confirmation. Photos uploaded by players may be “left” with plants for other to see (perhaps).

Should users have accounts?

Sign in with FB or make a new account, very simple information needed. Unique usernames.

Who is the main audience?

CWU students and faculty, initially.

How should the app be distributed? Google Play, Apple App store, exe file?

Google Play or distributed through a website for downloading the APK.

How should the interface look?

I have a set of old ideas that I will show everyone.

What kind of plants do you want in the app?

We will start with trees on campus, although bushes should be good, too.

What should the color scheme be?

Nature.

Do you have a device you would like us to run the project from?

I do not have access to a server. We will need a MySQL or SQL database.

Will this be a free app?

Free, for sure.

How do you want this data saved?

Data will be saved indefinitely, also shared with the USA NPN.

Where do you want long-term data saved?

Google Drive? CWU Microsoft Cloud?

A previous project was mentioned, is there any part of that old project available to us?

Yes, I will provide old artwork. I also have a lot of code, but that may be worse than starting from scratch.

Should there be a way to upload user pictures?

For verification of plant phases, perhaps. Also for social interaction.

Possible ideas, not all doable in a quarter.

1. Find trees and bushes using different methods: (1) map + description (easiest, fewer points), (2) general direction and distance + description (harder), (3) a riddle + description (possiblty hardest, most points).
2. Once found, a point is awarded. More points for making a phenological observation from drop-down list. This also unlocks a mini game (catch falling fruit, shoot pests, hose down fires, tree trivia) to gain even more points. Something that requires a little skill.
3. Players can leave behind "items" for others to see, like geocaching, but digitally (images/text). May require to spend points to do this but if others like your item, then you can gain points?
4. Returning to aleady found trees gains more points, but max one revisit per day. The more trees on a player's map, the more points are awarded per tree re-visited.
5. If a tree has not been returned to in a month, then it starts to fade from the player's map and the player must eventually "find" it again.
6. Spend points to establish your own tree or bush. Then when other players visit, points are awarded to the "owner" also.
7. Push notificaton to phones for spring/summer events, trees nearby that need verification of an event, items left at a tree.
8. New record of flowering, first leaf, droppng leaves, are events worth more points, but only first 5 players. Lasts for 5 days.
9. Needs to be extensible to other regions, other campuses?
10. Database of tree species limits selection but with known phenophases. all data collected goes to USA-NPN

<https://www.usanpn.org/nn/mopnw>

<https://www.usanpn.org/nn/species_search>

<https://www.usanpn.org/nn/guidelines>

<https://www.usanpn.org/data/visualizations>

<http://budburst.org/>