‘It’s Not on the Inventory List!: Tracking Plants in a Semi-naturalized Meadow’

Julie Rotramel: Plant Recorder

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Various Interests in How Plant Information is Maintained

- **Plant Recorder: data integrity and consistency**
- **Horticulture Staff: ease of finding plantings in their areas**
- **Director of Collections: provenance priority, separation of wild collected accessions**
- **Education: clear and complete plant lists with mapped locations**

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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, woody plants are also mapped.**
- **Central portion of meadow is naturalized and is consistently supplemented with new plant material**

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Indistinguishable Plantings

Mt. Cuba often uses the Non-existing item status ‘Removed-Indistinguishable’ if a mass of plants is added to an existing mass in a planting bed.

- **Keeps the inventory list clean**
- **Non-existing record shows all plantings that were added to the bed if we want a full list of plant material**
- **BUT provenance of the existing mass becomes muddled**

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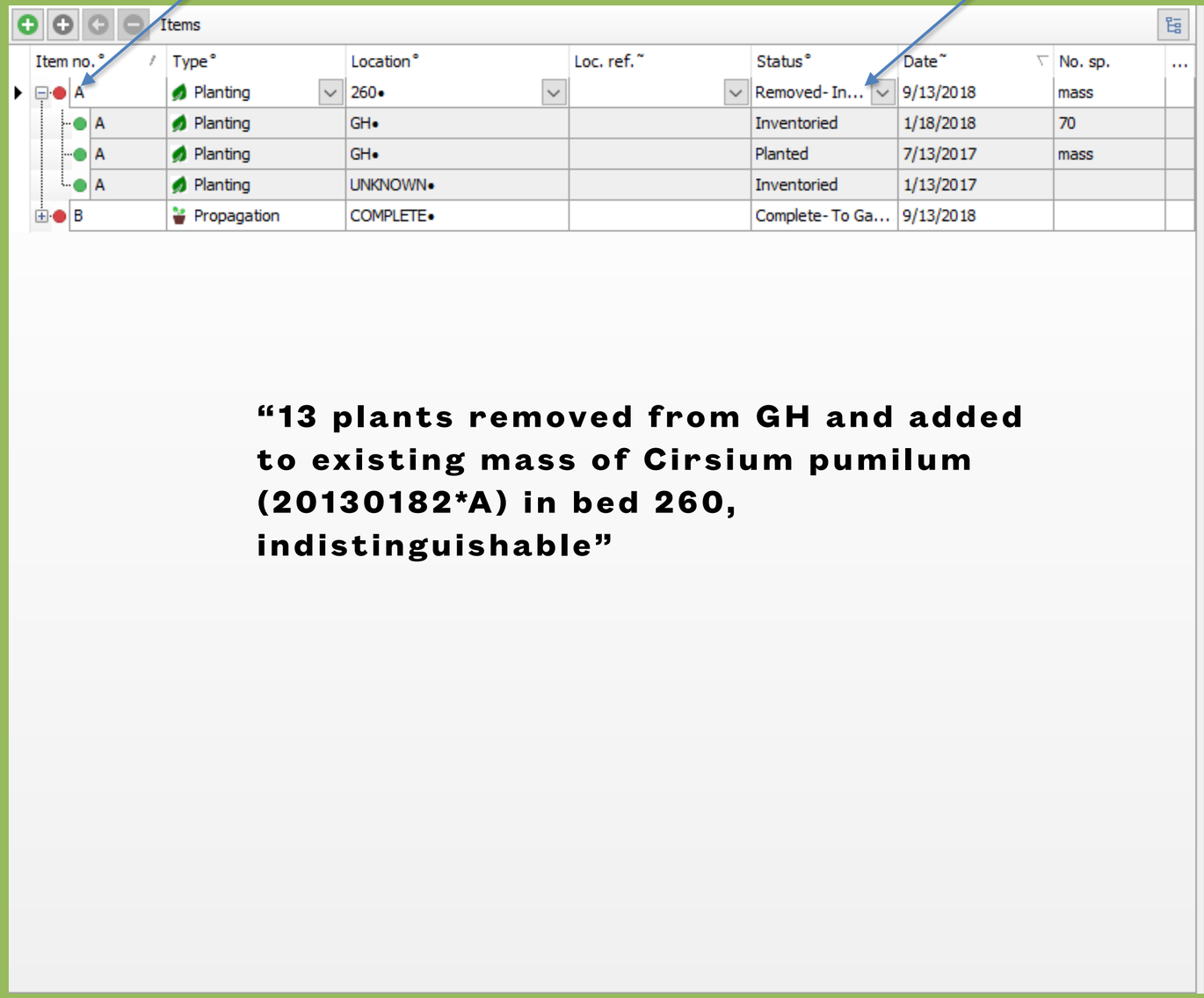
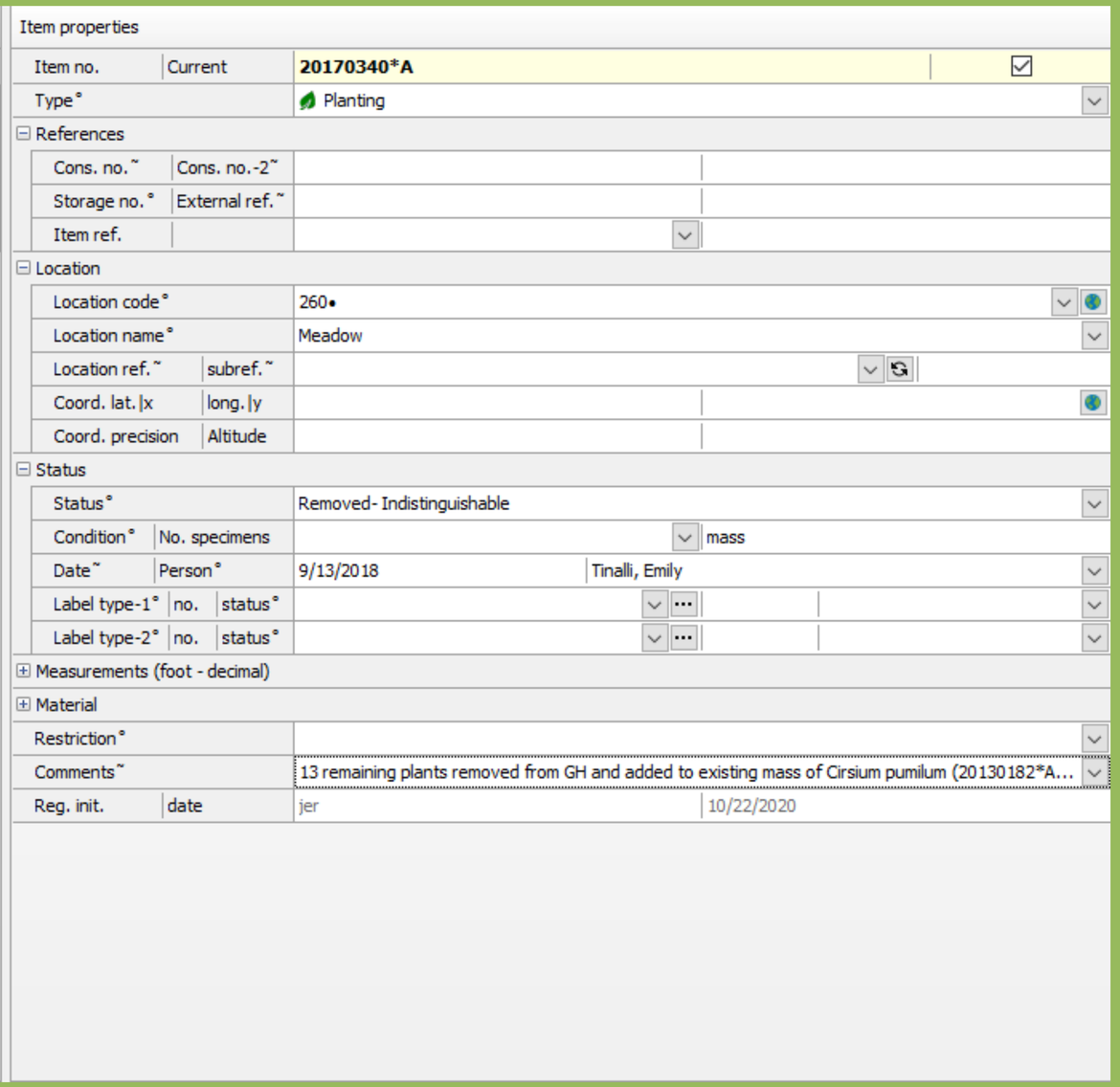
Item Status Type: Not Existing

Item Status: Removed- Indistinguishable

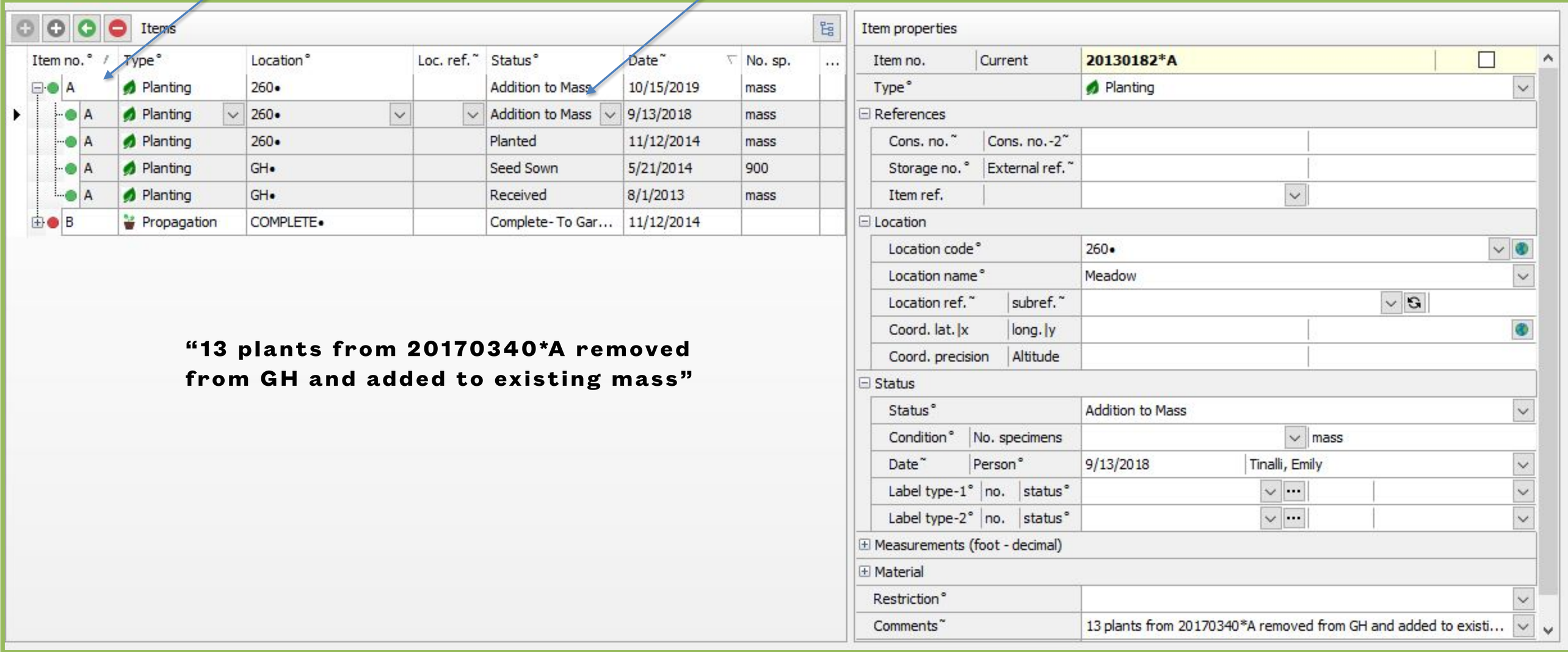


“13 plants removed from GH and added to existing mass of Cirsium pumilum (20130182*A) in bed 260, indistinguishable”



Item Status Type: Existing

Item Status: Addition to Mass



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

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.**

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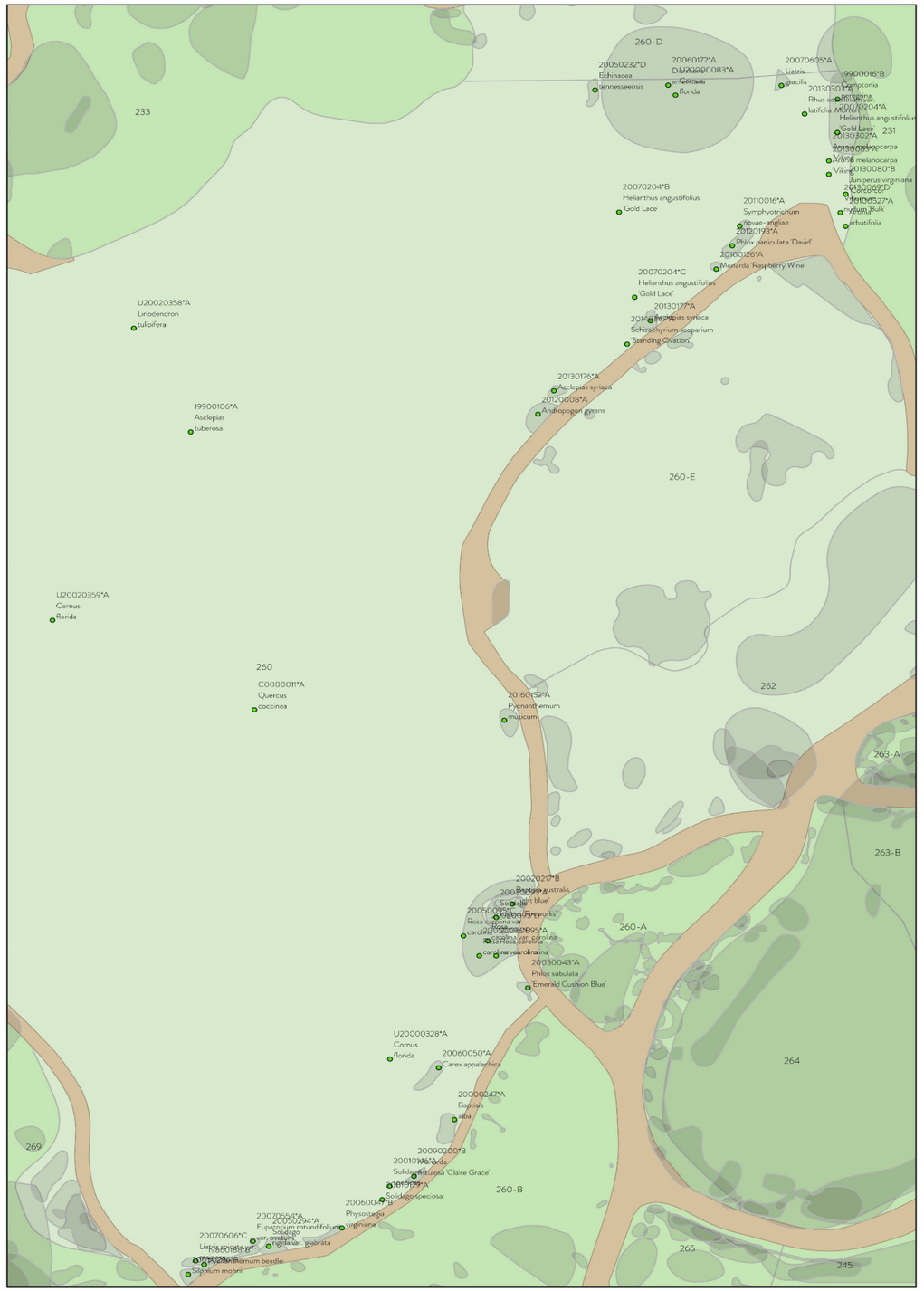

Questions for Discussion

1

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

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?

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Thank
You
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