

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

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Washington, D. C.,



Recent Notes of Information from the Office of Seed
and Plant Introduction

by

David G. Fairchild,
Agricultural Explorer in Charge.

The Office of Seed and Plant Introduction desires to strengthen its bonds of cooperation with the other offices of the Bureau of Plant Industry and, in order to bring to their attention as soon as possible after their introduction the various plants which come in from abroad, it has been suggested that there be issued at frequent intervals brief notes on the new arrivals.

At the same time it has seemed advisable to combine with these notes on new importations the names and addresses of the more important callers who have paid the office a visit and who are likely to be valuable as correspondents in foreign countries, and also brief statements regarding interesting men whom we have gotten in touch with through correspondence and to whom we may apply for information regarding some of the Plant Industries with which the various Officers of the Bureau are working.

If any of the plants recently introduced are wanted by you in your experiments, please place a written request for some of them at once and your name will be put on our list to receive them when they are sent out. If you have any request to make of any caller who has been here or of any of our foreign correspondents, please write and the matter will be taken up with the correspondent at once.

Kindly keep it in mind that we are likely at any time to be able to get for your work any new plant that you desire, providing you know exactly what it is and where it is to be found. We are able often also to discover where a plant is in some foreign country and thru our rapidly growing correspondence list to import it in a few weeks time if you will give us an idea of what you want.

Trusting that these notes will interest the members of the Bureau Staff and increase the usefulness of this branch of the Service, I remain,

Very truly yours,

David Fairchild,

Agricultural Explorer in Charge
of Foreign Explorations.

We may fail to reach in our first distribution of these notes all in the Bureau who are particularly interested and I would be glad to receive applications from those who desire to be put on the mailing list.

Notes from the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction.

Oct. 12-26, 1908.

New Plant Immigrants.

CHILE, Limavida. Rec. Oct. 7 from Jose D. Husbands the following numbers:

- 23755-59 23761-23836. *Phaseolus vulgaris*.
23760. *Vigna unguiculata*.
23837-23845. *Cucurbita maxima*.
23846-851, 23860. Common field peas.
23852-55. *Cicer arietinum*.
23856-57 *Lathyrus sativus*.
23858-59. *Lens esculenta*.
23861-62. *Hordeum vulgare*.
23863. *Juglans nigra*.
23864. Bamboo. Solid stem, grows about 20-25 ft. high, slightly drooping, small, scant foliage, short joints, very tough. Grows dry, any poor soil, extra hardy.
23865. Bamboo. Solid stem, grows straight from 25-30 feet high. Abundance of small, long-leafed foliage: a good industrial class, grows dry, any arid soil, extra hardy.
23866. *Arundo donax*. Hollow stem, grows erect, about 25-30 feet high; roots extend on top of the ground. From top to bottom has a rank leaf growth like corn leaves extending from 2 opposite sides. The second year it throws out branches. A valuable commercial class. Extra hardy, resists droughts. This was found growing on bare sand which dries to a powder 8 months of the year.
23867. Quila. A long-leaf-stem class about 20 feet long, grows drooping.
23868. Quila. A drooping class whose short leaves grow in bunches close to the stem from each joint. When the leaves are eaten they quickly grow again and also sprout anew. A good forage class from 10-20 ft. long.

23869. *Chusquea quila*. Similar to 23867 in leaf; plant somewhat dwarfed; grows from 6-12 feet long. All the above bamboos are from the Coast Cordilleras 35-40 miles from the sea, are readily eaten by all animals, extra hardy and grow dry in poorest arid soils.

FRANCE. Paris. Presented by Mr. E. Tisserand, Minister of Colonies. Rec. Oct. 4:

- 23872-23874. *Musa sapientum*.
- 23875. *Musa sinensis*.
- 23876. *Colocasia esculenta*; green.
- 23877. *Colocasia esculenta*; violet.
- 23878. *Pachira macrocarpa*.
- 23879. *Passiflora lauriflora*.
- 23880. *Passiflora* sp.
- 23881. *Amorphophallus bulbifer*.

INDIA, Chakrata, Jaunsar District. *Rubus paniculatus*. 23870. Rec. Oct. 13 from Mr. H. G. Billson. "This blue raspberry grows sparingly in the forests in the Jaunsar District. The bush is small and trailing; the fruit is about the size of a logan berry, but with a beautiful blue bloom and is excellent eating."

JAMAICA, Kingston. *Cecropia peltata*. 23901. Rec. Oct. 23. "A variety of the urticaceous quick growing cecropias with edible, not very well-flavored fruits; available as a shade tree, abundant in the warmer valleys and rain forests of Mexico."

JAPAN, Yokohama. *Mitsumata*. 23754. Rec. Oct. 12. "The paper plant from which some of the finest Japanese paper is made."

MASSACHUSETTS, Marblehead. *Actinidia kalomicta*. 23900. Rec. Oct. 21. "From 20 year old vine on the place of Mr. Chas. Parker. This vine has borne fruit regularly since it was 8 or 9 years old. The fruit was of delicate flavor."

PERU, Lima. *Medicago sativa*; San Pedro. 23902. Presented by Mr. T. F. Sedgwick. Rec. Oct. 6.

PERU, Lima. *Medicago sativa*. 23896. Presented by Signor Ignacio la Puente. "This seed probably originated in the vicinity of Supe in the coastal plain region of Peru."

PHILLIPINE ISLANDS, Pampanga. *Uvaria rufa*. 23899. Rec. Oct. 20. "Small, evergreen fruit tree from sea level up to 2000 feet, lat. $10\frac{1}{2}$ S to 16 N. Fruits oblong in grape-like clusters, 10 to 30 berries. These edible and fairly palatable; intense vermilion red, making trees in fruit very attractive."

SPAIN, Elche. *Medicago sativa*. 23871. Presented by Dr. L. Trabut. Rec. Feb. 14, 1908, "This alfalfa has unusually large leaves and Dr. Trabut regards it as being distinct from Algerian alfalfa."

New or Important Foreign Correspondents Recently
Heard From or Gotten Trace Of.

AFRICA, German East. A. Zimmerman, Sept. 23. Sends *Crotalaria Hildebrandtii* and *Desmodium scalpe*. Promises to send other legumes.

AFRICA, Lourenco Marquez. Mr. O. W. Barrett, Sept. 20. Re chemical analysis of *Trichilia emetica*: second class seed 66 per cent oil, of which 45 per cent is commercially extractable. Value £8 per ton.

BRAZIL, Theophilo Ottoni, Minas Geraes. Fred Birch, Sept. 17. Sends seed of a bean which runs over trees, and seeds of the wild pawpaw. The latter is a fair-sized forest tree and will need great care in starting. The fruit has the property of scratching the tongue and sides of the throat. Fruits quite small, 4 in. long x $1\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter; of bright orange color with tender skin and luscious appearance. Foliage very ornamental, like horsechestnut in miniature.

Sends description of bamboo used for basket making and of the Chrystofine, a green, vegetable-like fruit. Says, however, that these can be more easily obtained from Trinidad.

CHINA, Canton. John M. Swan, Sept. 17. Offers to send more leitchee plants.

CHINA, Huchow. Dr. C. Herman Barlow, Sept, 5. Sends names of doctors and missionaries who may be of use to the Department as follows: Rev. P. F. Price, Dongshang, China; Dr. Chas. MacKenzie, Kinhua via Shanghai, China; Dr. G. C. Worth, Kiangyu, China; Rev. E. E. Jones, Ningpo, China; Rev. T. D. Holmes, Kinhua, China; Rev. Alec. Kennedy, Dongsi, China.

JAVA, Buitenzorg. Dr. Treub, Sept. 9, 1908. Sends seeds of *Garcinia Benthami*, *G. celebica* and *G. porrecta*.

MANCHURIA. N. E. Hansen, Sept. 22. Has just returned from an arm of the Gobi desert in Western Manchuria with a considerable quantity of Mongolian alfalfa (*Medicago ruthenica*.) This vigorous, erect-growing alfalfa now comes to America for the first time. In its native home the mercury freezes several times every winter, usually with snow on the ground and with very dry, hot summers.

RUSSIA, Odessa. Alfred W. Smith, Deputy Consul, Oct. 6. Says there is a variety of sweet melon known there as Kachanka and sometimes called Tsesarka on account of its spotted surface resembling a guinea fowl's plumage. Sends a small package of seed and address of dealer in Odessa from whom it can be secured.

TURKEY, Harput. Evan E. Young, Sept. 17. Promises to send Behesni grape vines this fall when leaves have fallen. Annouces his change of post to Saloniki. Col. Wm. Masterson to be his successor at Harput.