

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER, 1900, TO DECEMBER, 1903.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory of seeds and plants which have been collected by agricultural explorers, or received through other sources by this Office, covers the period from September, 1900, to December, 1903. It includes 4,396 accession inventory numbers. Since the last inventory was published in 1901 the explorers and special agents of this Office have continued their extensive searches after new and promising varieties of plants for introduction into this country. The notes furnished regarding the different introductions vary greatly with regard to their completeness and it is desired to point out clearly that this inventory makes no pretenses to being an embodiment of all the information we possess regarding the various seeds and plants listed. It is merely a collection, largely for use in this Office and by members of the State experiment stations, of the notes which accompanied the various seeds and plants when they were sent in. Their value will in many cases be more historical than explanatory. For some of the most important numbers, separate detailed reports have been issued in the form of bulletins or are being prepared for publication.

It will be noticed that no attempt has been made to follow the latest reforms in nomenclature, the Kew Index having been taken in most cases as a convenient guide in the spelling of the different scientific names.

The quantities of seeds or plants represented by these different numbers are, as a rule, small, and in the vast majority of cases it has been necessary to distribute them as soon as possible after arrival to competent experimenters throughout the country. It will therefore be, in most cases, impossible to furnish seeds or plants described in this inventory. If, however, special reasons can be shown by reputable experimenters why further introductions of certain species or varieties should be made, this Office will be glad to take the matter up, for it is desirous of introducing any new variety which may be called to its attention by plant breeders or others in a position to carry out consecutive and careful plant-introduction experiments.