

33272 to 33277—Continued.**33275 to 33277—Continued.**

greater part of Europe. Small shipments have been made in recent years to New York and Boston, but the total lack of cold-storage facilities in ships visiting this coast and the consequent very large percentage of deterioration in transportation has generally rendered such experiments unprofitable.

"The Valencia system of melon raising requires seed beds and transplanting. The seeds are planted in the former in clusters of five or six on a layer of animal manure wrought into a thick paste with the addition of water, each cluster being deposited in slight depressions in the surface about 8 or 9 inches apart. The bed is then covered with a light sprinkling of dry, pulverized manure which is kept moist by occasional spraying with water. Transplanting takes place when the two lateral branches of the plant are thrown out and the tip of the central growth is just appearing. The more delicate plants are discarded and only the healthiest and most vigorous utilized.

"In preparing the soil for transplanting, the desired porousness is attained here by mixing with it the sea sand used as hog bedding, to which is added fertilizer in the proportion of 1 sack of ammonia sulphate, the favorite nitrogenous fertilizer in this region, to 10 sacks of the sand bedding. The rows are separated from 6 to 7 feet, and the distance between each plant is 30 to 36 inches. Irrigation in the absence of rain is given at 8-day intervals.

"In the Alicante district, a little to the south of this, the seed are planted definitely in the open in pits about a yard apart in which organic manure has been mixed with the soil.

"It is very difficult to obtain selected melon seed true to variety on the open market in this country. Each farmer reserves his own seed by a very practical method of selection, as only the seeds of fruit distinguished at the family table by its sweetness, flavor, and thickness of pulp are set apart for future planting or exchange with neighboring farmers. This process of selection continued through a succession of years appears to be remarkably successful, attaining such uniformity and high quality of product that it is not unusual to find a whole plantation without a single flavorless specimen among its crop. The smallness of Valencia farms, however, occasionally proves an obstacle in selecting and preserving the purity of varieties, as the proximity of inferior stock may easily nullify the care and labor of the most intelligent farmer in melon raising.

"Winter melons are harvested in the early fall and are suspended in loops of esparto cordage from nails in the beams of roofs and lofts, where they keep with but little deterioration for six months or more."

33278. CLEMATIS sp.

From Tangier, Morocco. Procured by Mr. Walter T. Swingle, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, from Mr. T. Goffart, of Tangier. Received March 25, 1912.

"Seeds of an interesting species growing abundantly in Mr. Goffart's garden. I think it would be interesting for trial in Florida and California and perhaps with protection even as far north as Washington." (*Swingle.*)