

37006 to 37008.

From Chita, Transbaikalia, Siberia. Purchased from Mr. M. M. Timogowitsch by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer for the Department of Agriculture. Received January 20, 1914.

37006. *PRUNUS SIBIRICA* L.

Apricot.

Baikal apricot.

37007. *BETULA FRUTICOSA* Pallas.

Birch.

This shrub, known to the Tungus as *Buhyka* or *Marak*, abounds in the swamps and stony mountains in the subalpine region of Siberia, especially around Lake Baikal, everywhere associated with *Rhododendron dauricum* L. and always resembling it. Steller observed this same shrub beyond the Lena River, and it is frequent in Kamchatka. This species is very similar to *Betula humilis* of Europe, but the leaves are more tapered toward the apex, have usually five or six pairs of veins, and the toothing is finer, sharper, and more regular; the wings of the seed are also comparatively broader than in *humilis*. It is a native of northeastern Europe and Siberia, inhabiting boggy places. (Adapted from Pallas, *Flora Rossica*; Schneider, *Laubholzkunde*; and W. J. Bean, *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, vol. 1, p. 257.)

37008. *MALUS BACCATA* (L.) Moench.

Siberian crab apple.

(*Pyrus baccata* L.)

"Genuine var. *vera*. Transbaikal apple."

"A tree 20 to 40 feet high, forming a rounded, wide-spreading head of branches, the lower ones arching or pendulous at the extremities; trunk 1 to 2 feet in diameter. Leaves $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, about half as wide; oval or ovate, rounded or tapering at the base, shallowly and bluntly toothed; smooth above, and either smooth or downy beneath; stalks slender, 1 to 2 inches long. Flowers white, produced during April in umbels; each flower $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across and borne on a slender stalk 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Fruit three-quarters to seven-eighths of an inch thick, globular, bright red, hollowed at the insertion of the stalk, and with a round scar, but no calyx teeth at the top.

"Widely spread in nature, this species reaches from Lake Baikal, in Siberia, eastward to Manchuria and North China, and the same or a similar tree is found in the Himalayas. Introduced to Kew in 1784. It varies considerably in the downiness of the various parts. Some of the trees in the Kew collection have smooth young shoots, leaves, calyx tube, and flower stalks; others have all these parts downy. The lobes of the calyx appear to be invariably silky hairy inside. As a tree for gardens, the Siberian crab stands in the first rank. It is pretty in April when laden with its abundant white flowers, but its great value and charm are most apparent in autumn, when its plentiful crop of cherrylike crabs turns a brilliant red. They remain long on the leafless branches, and I have seen them lighting up the garden on fine days as late as February. This tree is closely allied to *Pyrus prunifolia*, but the fruit of the latter is more elongated, not indented at the base, and nearly always crowned with the calyx teeth. The late Dr. Regel, about 30 years ago, sent seeds to Kew of about a dozen varieties with names, but when the trees flowered and bore fruit they proved indistinguishable. The fruit of *Pyrus baccata*, although harsh when eaten raw, makes a very excellent jelly." (W. J. Bean, *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, vol. 2, p. 278-279.)