

## 37613 to 37622—Continued.

leaves, and small, round, black fruits. But *P. insititia* and *communis* are more closely allied; they both have brown bark, larger and more bluntly toothed leaves, but the fruit of the bullace is round and often white or yellow, whilst the plum is black and oval. Intermediate forms occur, of which the damson is one, having an oval, purple, sour fruit. (The damsons take their name from Damascus, where they have been cultivated since before the Christian era.) The Mirabelle group of plums, with round, yellow fruits, acid and sweet, belong to *P. insititia*." (*W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 238.*)

37620. *PYRUS SALICIFOLIA* Pall.

Willow-leaved pear.

See S. P. I. No. 26764 for previous introduction and description.

"A tree 15 to 25 feet high, branchlets covered with down, which is quite white when young. Leaves  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, one-third to two-thirds inch wide; narrowly lanceolate, tapering gradually towards both ends, covered when young on both sides with a beautiful silvery gray down; later in the year this falls away from the upper surface, leaving it shining green; margins quite entire; stalk one-half inch long or less, sometimes scarcely noticeable. Flowers pure white, about three-fourths inch across, produced in April, closely packed in small rounded corymbs, the calyx and flower stalk covered with white wool. Fruit of the typical pear shape, 1 to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long and wide.

"Native of southeastern Europe and Asia Minor; introduced in 1780. It is much the most ornamental of all true pears. Its leaves and flowers often open simultaneously, and it then presents a very charming picture, the willowlike leaves being of a conspicuous silky white. After the flowers fade, the leaves remain silvery for some weeks, gradually, however, becoming greener on the upper surface. The fruit is harsh to the palate and of no value." (*W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 292-293.*)

37621 and 37622. *RIBES* spp.

37621. *RIBES ALPINUM* L.

Currant.

"This species of *Ribes* which is commonly called the *Mountain currant* is a native of the mountains of Europe and the Orient. The branches are whitish and upright and the leaves slightly hairy above. The flowers, which are diœcious, are yellowish green in color and occur in staminate and pistillate clusters, the former having 20 to 30 flowers and the latter 5 to 10 flowers to the cluster. The peduncles are glandular hairy, and the bracts are longer than the pedicel and flower. The fruit of this species is smooth, scarlet colored, and insipid or sweetish to the taste." (*Bailey, Cyclopedia of American Horticulture.*)

37622. *RIBES SPECIOSUM* Pursh.

Gooseberry.

This is a hardy shrub which is a native of California and apparently of Mexico. If this species can not be said to be so beautiful a shrub as *Ribes sanguineum*, the *Scarlet* currant, it is at least by far the most elegant of gooseberries and considered by some to be the most showy member of the genus. In brilliancy of color it is perhaps superior to that species, and in the abundance of flowers nearly its equal. With all its beauty, however, this species has the demerit, common to all gooseberries, of hiding its pretty bright red