

**44562. GOSSYPIUM sp. Malvaceæ. Cotton.**

From Kribi, Kamerun, West Africa. Presented by Rev. H. W. Grieg, Presbyterian Church Mission. Received April 12, 1917.

Seeds sent in response to a request for a native cotton reported to be used by the Bulus in weaving cloth.

**44563. BALANITES AEGYPTIACA (L.) Delile. Zygophyllaceæ.**

From Cairo, Egypt. Presented by Mr. F. G. Walsingham, Gizeh Branch, Ministry of Agriculture. Received April 14, 1917.

A tropical African tree, 3 to 5 meters high, with straight, rigid branches; woolly, papery, ovate leaves; green flowers in 3 to 5 flowered cymes; and edible drupes 3 cm. long, with a bitter-sweet flavor. The natives make an intoxicating drink from these fruits, which are also eaten raw with a laxative effect. The seeds yield an oil known as oil of betu, which is used as a liniment, for food, and, to some extent, as a medicine. The wood is hard and close grained, and the bark of the young trees yields a very strong fiber. One of the ingredients of the celebrated spikenard perfume is supposed to have been furnished by this tree. (Adapted from *Post, Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai*, p. 199, and from *Kew Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information, Additional Series IX*, p. 138.)

**44564. ZEA MAYS L. Poaceæ. Corn.**

From Rosario, Argentina. Presented by Mr. William Dawson, jr., American consul. Received April 16, 1917.

"A Rosario landowner who has made extensive experiments with corn recently reported to the Rosario Bolsa de Comercio with respect to the advisability of sowing bitter corn (maiz amargo) which is indorsed in some quarters as locust proof. His recommendations are strongly against this variety. While the locust, unless hard pressed, will not eat the leaves if it finds the plant in flower or grain, it will eat bitter corn as well as any other form. The growth of bitter corn is very slow and requires 9 to 10 months, and even more. With its enormous leaves it exhausts the soil, and after the harvest the hard green stalks make it very difficult to clear the ground, especially in Argentina, where farm labor is costly. Finally, its yield is very small and from 25 to 50 per cent of that which any other common variety of corn will give under similar conditions, to say nothing of the yields obtained from selected seed.

"The landowner mentioned, who makes a specialty of selected seed, states that bitter corn is the only variety that he does not sell. He considers it useful only in the Chaco where 'land is as plentiful as locusts,' and there is little objection to exhausting the soil. Furthermore, in the Chaco the distance between farms is too great to permit an organized defensive campaign against locusts, which under ordinary circumstances respect the leaves of bitter corn." (*Dawson, in Commerce Reports, January 4, 1917, p. 36.*)

**44565. MYRISTICA FRAGRANS Houtt. Myristicaceæ. Nutmeg.**

From Grenada, British West Indies. Presented by Mr. L. F. de Backer, New York City. Received April 16, 1917.

An East Indian tree, 20 to 25 feet high, with smooth grayish brown bark; oval, dark-green, sharp-pointed leaves 3 to 6 inches long, slightly aromatic when bruised; pale yellowish dioecious flowers in axillary racemes; and nearly spherical, pearlike drupes. The flesh of these drupes is yellowish and full of astringent juice, and discloses the oval, hard-shelled, rugged, dark-brown nut. This contains the nutmeg of commerce, an oval, pale-brown seed which soon becomes shriveled and wrinkled. (Adapted from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, pls. 2756 and 2757, as *Myristica officinalis*.)