

**48020. RHEUM sp. Polygonaceæ.**

**Rhubarb.**

From Durban, Natal, Africa. Roots purchased from R. Mason & Son through Mr. William W. Masterson, American consul. Received September 20, 1919.

“A kind of garden rhubarb that is grown here, which will be a valuable introduction if similar results can be obtained with it in America. This rhubarb in the early spring (October here) is tender and crisp and is used extensively for the table. Unlike our rhubarb, which soon becomes fibrous and tough, this rhubarb lasts about seven months and is as good during that time as when it first came on the market in the spring. I do not know whether this difference is caused by the climate, soil, or other local reasons, or whether it is another kind of rhubarb. I only know it is delicious, is invariably good and tender, and lasts over half the year.” (*Masterson.*)

**48021. PHASEOLUS COCCINEUS L. Fabaceæ. Scarlet Runner bean.**

From Chile. Presented by Mr. Hudson Maxim, Landing, N. J. Received September 23, 1919.

“Chile beans which I obtained from a member of the Du Pont Company who traveled in Argentina and Chile. These beans grow in a wet district at a high altitude in the Andes and are very frost resistant. From early August until the ground freezes in the fall one may have the very best of string beans from this variety, and the large juicy pods, which are borne most prolifically, may be eaten even after they have been pretty well filled with seeds. By the latter part of August the beans are large enough to be used as Limas, and they are superior to any that I know. The plants want very rich soil and an abundance of water and climbing space; they reach a height of 20 feet or more. The dry beans are hard, plump, and glossy.” (*Maxim.*)

**48022. BETA VULGARIS L. Chenopodiaceæ.**

**Sugar beet.**

From Naarden, Holland. Presented by Kuhn & Co., through Mr. Joseph W. Pincus. Received September 30, 1919.

Introduced for variety tests being carried on by Department specialists. The following table shows results of experimental tests with this variety:

Location of test.	Sugar in the beet.	Yield per acre.	
		Beets.	Sugar.
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Bohemia.....	19.37	35,543	6,885
Zeeland, Holland.....	16.93	39,677	6,717

**48023. RUMEX ABYSSINICUS Jacq. Polygonaceæ.**

From Loanda, Angola, Portuguese West Africa. Presented by Mr. John Gossweiler, Servicos de Agricultura. Numbered September 16, 1919.

“This Rumex has proved a most interesting plant, reaching a height of 7 to 8 feet in one season and yielding, from the first of June all through the summer, an abundance of succulent green leaves that make an excellent substitute for spinach. It promises to be an excellent plant for our Southern States, where summer green-leaved vegetables are very scarce.” (*Peter Bisset.*)