

**56021. ESCALLONIA PHILIPPIANA (Engler) Masters. Escalloniaceæ.**

From Exeter, England. Plants purchased from Robert Veitch & Son, The Royal Nursery. Received November 25, 1922.

This ornamental shrub, native to Chile, is the hardiest of all the Escallonias, and unlike the other species is deciduous. It forms a spreading shrub with gracefully arching branches and has small dark-green leaves which serve admirably as a background for the pretty star-shaped white flowers. (Adapted from *Gardening Illustrated*, vol. 38, p. 501.)

**56022. WARSZEWICZIA COCCINEA (Vahl) Klotzsch. Rubiaceæ.  
Scarlet plume.**

From Gamboa, Canal Zone. Seeds presented by F. Marti. Received November 28, 1922.

"This is a remarkable ornamental tree; I first saw it on the banks of Gatun Lake at Rio Suclo. At a distance its racemes, over 2 feet long, with their brilliant-scarlet enlarged sepals, produced a startling splash of color against the dark-green foliage. The color is as vividly scarlet as the autumn colors of the sour gum, the sorrel tree, or some species of Japanese maple. The colored 'leaves' are in reality enlarged sepals. Only one flower in each cluster of flowers on the raceme has an enlarged sepal. Though the flowers themselves are not over a quarter of an inch in diameter, the enlarged sepals are often 2½ inches long. The fact that this tree blooms in summer, the wet season, whereas most of the showy flowering trees of the Tropics bloom in the dry season, would seem to make this an unusually valuable ornamental tree for tropical regions. It is certainly worthy of a place in every collection of tropical trees." (*David Fairchild*.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 54297.

**56023. FRAGARIA CHILOENSIS (L.) Duchesne. Rosaceæ.  
Chilean strawberry.**

From Guayaquil, Ecuador. Seeds presented by Dr. F. W. Goding, American consul general. Received December 7, 1922.

"These seeds were obtained at Guachi, near Ambato. While the fruit of the Chilean strawberry is inferior in flavor to that of our best cultivated strawberries, it is remarkable for its excellent shipping and keeping qualities; and it seems that varieties might be produced by selection which would merit cultivation on a commercial scale.

"The berry is much used for canning and preserving. It is also eaten fresh. It is a curious circumstance that this species of strawberry, whose fruits are commonly an inch to an inch and a half long, should be called *frutilla* (little fruit) in Chile, Peru, and Ecuador, while the much smaller fruit of *Fragaria vesca*, rarely over one-half an inch long, is termed *fresa*, or strawberry. This last-named species is cultivated commercially at Quillota, Chile, whence the fruit, which ripens earlier than that of *F. chiloensis*, is sent to the markets of Santiago.

"As far as I can ascertain by careful examination of the plants and fruits, the *frutillas* of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador are the same species. Neither in Peru nor in Chile, however, do the plants bear all through the year as they do on the sandy plains near Ambato, Ecuador. I imagine the difference in climatic conditions is the cause of this; on the Equator there are no well-defined seasons, and the plants remain active throughout the year, while in Chile the seasons are fairly well defined and vegetative activity ceases during a part of each year, as with us. The ripening season of *F. chiloensis* in the highlands of southern Peru and central Chile seems to extend, approximately, from the latter part of October to January." (*Wilson Popenoe*.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 54630.

**56024. CORNUS OFFICINALIS Sieb. and Zucc. Cornaceæ.**

From Rochester, N. Y. Seeds presented by John Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent of Parks. Received December 8, 1922.

"This resembles *Cornus mas* when in flower, but the fruits ripen in October and November and are quite handsome." (*Dunbar*.)