

I N V E N T O R Y ¹

58024. FRAGARIA CHILOENSIS (L.)
 Duchesne. Rosaceae.
Chilean strawberry.

From Honolulu, Hawaii. Seeds presented by Dr. H. L. Lyon, in charge, Department of Botany and Forestry, Experiment Station of the Sugar Planters' Association. Received October 1, 1923

Seeds sent to Doctor Lyon from Ecuador by Francis X. Williams.

Although 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 that would merit cultivation on a commercial scale. The berry is much used for canning and preserving and is also eaten fresh. The ripening season of *Fragaria chiloensis* in the highlands of southern Peru and central Chile extends approximately from the latter part of October to January.

For previous introduction see S. P. I. No. 56023.

58025. ARTOCARPUS ODORATISSIMA
 Blanco. Moraceae. **Marang.**

From Manila, Philippine Islands. Seeds presented by Adn. Hernandez, director, Bureau of Agriculture. Received October 3, 1923.

The marang has been brought recently to the attention of horticulturists by P. J. Wester, who considers it a fruit of unusual promise. It resembles the jack fruit and the seeded breadfruit in appearance but is superior in quality to either of these. The tree, which grows wild in the southern Philippine Islands and the Sulu Archipelago, is medium sized, with large dark-green entire or 3-lobed leaves 18 to 24 inches long. Wester (Food Plants of the Philippines, ed. 3, p. 129) describes the fruit as roundish oblong in form, about 5 inches in length, with the surface thickly studded with soft greenish yellow spines one-third of an inch long. The rind is thick and fleshy, the flesh white, wet, juicy, aromatic, and of pleasant flavor; it is separated into segments (about the size of a grape) which cling to the core, and each segment contains whitish seed nearly half an inch long. When the fruit is ripe, by passing a knife around and through the rind, with a little care the halves may be separated from the flesh, leaving this like a bunch of white grapes. In the Philippines it ripens in August.

The tree is strictly tropical in its requirements and probably will not succeed in regions where the temperature falls below 32° to 35° F. It likes a moist atmosphere and abundant rainfall.

For previous introduction see S. P. I. No. 46635.

58026. CUCUMIS MELO L. Cucurbitaceae.
Melon.

From Bareilly, United Provinces, India. Seeds presented by Rev. N. L. Rockey. Received October 3, 1923.

Seeds of a melon bought in Alighur but evidently imported from the borders of Afghanistan or Baluchistan. The native name is *Zarda*. The fruit was yellowish green, weighed 5¼ pounds, and the flesh was 1¾ inches thick. (Rockey.)

The culture of the superior kinds of melon requires considerable attention, but there is hardly a fruit that better deserves it. The kind which ranks as finest of all, called the Surdah, is a native of Kabul and has not, that I am aware, been cultivated with success in any part of India. The fruits are brought occasionally to the Punjab for the wealthy natives, and a friend told me that when at Mooltan an offer of 6 rupees which he made for a single one was refused, so highly are they prized. I have several times raised plants in my garden at Firozpur. They thrive moderately well but bore only one or two fruits, which always rotted on the under side before beginning to ripen. From a portion of one which remained partially sound I was enabled to discover how delicious this fruit must be when raised in perfection. The seeds of this kind are at once to be distinguished from those of any other, being fully four times larger. (*Firminger's Manual of Gardening*, ed. 5, p. 225.)

58027. GARCINIA MANGOSTANA L.
 Clusiaceae. **Mangosteen.**

From Paris, France. Seeds purchased from Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. Received October 4, 1923.

For more than 20 years the Office of Foreign Plant Introduction has been interested in the establishment of the Asiatic mangosteen, reputed to be the "queen of fruits," in the tropical American dependencies of the United States. It was believed for many years that the mangosteen could not be made to bear fruit outside of the Asiatic tropics. There is now a fruiting orchard of more than a dozen trees on the island of Dominica in the West Indies and another of nearly the same size near Guayaquil, Ecuador. Fruit has also been produced in Trinidad, Jamaica, and the Hawaiian Islands. It is evident therefore that when given the proper conditions of climate and soil and appropriate cultural treatment the mangosteen can be grown successfully in many regions. The seeds of this fruit are among the most difficult in the world to transport long distances. In 1922 it was found that seed obtained through Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co., of Paris, reached Washington in better condition than any which had been received previously from any source.

For previous introduction see S. P. I. No. 56822

¹ It should be understood that the names of horticultural varieties of fruits, vegetables, cereals, and other plants used in this inventory are those under which the material was received when introduced by the Office of Foreign Plant Introduction and, further, that the printing of such names here does not constitute their official publication and adoption in this country. As the different varieties are studied, their entrance into the American trade forecast, and the use of varietal names for them in American literature becomes necessary, the foreign varietal designations appearing in this inventory will be subject to change with a view to bringing the forms of the names into harmony with recognized horticulturalomenclature.

It is a well-known fact that botanical descriptions, both technical and economic, seldom mention the seeds and rarely describe them in such a way as to make possible identification from the seeds alone. Many of the unusual plants listed in these inventories are appearing in this country for the first time, and there are no seed samples or herbarium specimens with ripe seeds with which the new arrivals may be compared. The only identification possible is to see that the sample received resembles seeds of other species of the same genus or of related genera. The responsibility for the specific identifications therefore must necessarily often rest with the person sending the material. If there is any question regarding the correctness of the identification of any plant received from this office, herbarium specimens of leaves and flowers should be sent in, so that definite identification can be made.