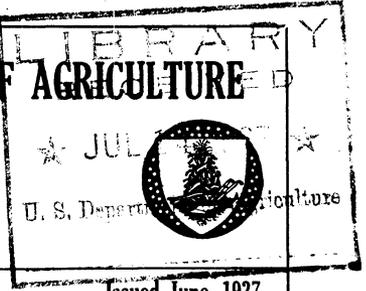


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



INVENTORY No. 82



Washington, D. C.

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SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION, BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1925 (S. P. I. NOS. 62231 TO 63489)

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

MORE THAN 1,200 lots of plant material were received during the three months represented by this inventory, a total well above the average maintained for the last few years. Much of this material was sent in by the four agricultural explorers who were pursuing their activities in eastern Asia, northern Africa, and western South America.

The Province of Chihli, China, and especially the vicinity of Peking, has continued to be a very fertile field for agricultural explorations, and from this region P. H. Dorsett has sent in a steady stream of promising plant immigrants. Of special interest are scions of a number of large-fruited varieties of the Chinese jujube (*Ziziphus jujuba*, Nos. 62352-62354, 62562, 63322, 63323, 63476), because of the increasing demand for this fruit among the growers in the Southwestern States and California. The jujube has shown itself to be adapted for growing in semiarid regions having long, hot summers and mild winters. As a candied fruit, processed in sugar sirup and dried, its popularity is steadily increasing.

Other fruits represented in Mr. Dorsett's collections are peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, pears, and persimmons. There are also included many locally developed strains of cereals and vegetables and a number of herbaceous and woody ornamentals.

From Ecuador a number of interesting lots of plant material were sent in by Wilson Popenoe. These include scions of a peach (*Amygdalus persica*, No. 62551), a medium-sized freestone which may prove adapted to subtropical climates, and scions of the capulin cherry (*Prunus scrotina*, No. 62553) from the old Gonzales tree at Catiglata. This tree, famous throughout the Ecuadorian highlands, bears cherries of unusually large size. The capulin cherry is very closely related to the wild black cherry of the eastern United States and may prove suitable for growing in the Southeastern States, where other cherries do not thrive.

In southeastern China F. A. McClure continued his investigations of the economic flora of that region and sent in an interesting collection of scions of the Japanese apricot (*Prunus mume*, Nos. 62311-62318). Our previous experience with the ornamental forms of *Prunus mume* has been that a few of the double-flowering and large-flowered sorts may be of special value because of their habit of blooming in the spring even before the forsythias, but as they are doubtfully hardy as far north as Washington, D. C. it may be necessary to confine their cultivation to the southern United States. Mr. McClure's collection includes some very promising large-flowered forms.