UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

INVENTORY No. 83

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SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION, BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 1925 (NOS. 63490 TO 64428)

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

For the second quarter of 1925, the period represented by this inventory, the general situation in respect to foreign agricultural explorations agrees rather closely with the period represented by the preceding inventory, No. 82. Doctor Fairchild was in Algeria and Morocco, Mr. Dorsett spent most of the time in the Province of Chihli, northern China, and Mr. McClure continued his work in the Province of Kwangtung, southeastern China.

Among the plant material obtained by Doctor Fairchild in Algeria were scions of three varieties of loquats (*Eriobotrya japonica*, Nos. 63557 to 63559). These were grown at the governor general's garden at Mustapha and are said to be superior types. From Dr. L. Trabut, also at Mustapha, Doctor Fairchild obtained seeds of a hybrid eucalypt (*Eucalyptus trabuti*, No. 63581). This was discovered by Doctor Trabut in the botanic gardens in Mustapha and is said to be an unusually rapid grower.

Mr. Dorsett's collections include an interesting series of native Chinese melon varieties (*Cucumis melo*, Nos. 63702 to 63713), six native cabbagelike vegetables (Brassica spp., Nos. 63910 to 63915), and many local types of beans, peas, wheat, and barley, obtained largely from the native markets in the villages of Chihli Province.

In 1925, according to the Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture for that year, about 25,000 acres were devoted to the growing of green peas in the United States. In order to assist horticulturists in extending this area by breeding disease-resistant strains and strains adapted to a variety of conditions, locally developed varieties were introduced from Germany, France, Sweden, England, and New South Wales.

One of the best date varieties grown in Lower Egypt is said to be the Samany (*Phoenix dactylifera*, No. 63975), offshoots of which have been obtained from the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. Date culture in the southwestern portion of the United States is progressing steadily, and Old World varieties are being sought which will be best adapted for growing in the different sections.

An Australian tree from the semiarid interior of New South Wales should be of interest for growing in the drier regions of the Southwest. This is the wilga (*Geijera parviflora*, No. 64000), a low tree resembling the weeping willow. The leaves of this drought-resistant tree are fed to cattle in New South Wales.