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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



INVENTORY No. 90



Washington, D. C.

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PLANT MATERIAL INTRODUCED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION, BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1927 (NOS. 70868 TO 73049)

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ¹

Two agricultural explorers were in the foreign field during the period covered by this inventory, David Fairchild and F. A. McClure. Doctor Fairchild visited a number of places in northern Africa, the Canary Islands, and West Africa, while Mr. McClure continued his explorations in southeastern China. General collections were made by both in the areas visited.

As a result of the contacts established by P. H. Dorsett in Manchuria during his travels there in 1926, plant material continued to be sent in by correspondents in that Province.

W. T. Swingle, of this bureau, returned from an extensive collecting trip in China and Japan, bringing with him a large lot of living material, chiefly of citrus plants.

The botanical determinations of introductions have been made and the nomenclature determined by H. C. Skeels, and the descriptive matter has been prepared under the direction of Paul Russell, who has had general supervision of this inventory.

KNOWLES A. RYERSON,
Principal Horticulturist, in Charge.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION,
Washington, D. C., July 30, 1928.

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 horticultural nomenclature.

It is a well-known fact that botanical descriptions, both technical and economic, seldom mention the seeds at all 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 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.