

practised in order to obtain the best fruit. The tree is readily propagated by seed if sown fresh. The large fleshy seed is of short vitality, and germinates in seven to eight days. (Adapted from Macmillan, Handbook of Tropical Gardening and Planting.)

Garcinia mangostana L. (Clusiaceae.) 45180. **Mangosteen.** From Dominica, British West Indies. Presented by Mr. Joseph Jones, Curator, Botanic Gardens. A moderate-sized conical tree, with large leathery leaves, indigenous to Malaya. Its globular purplish brown fruit, about the size of an apple, is famed as one of the most delicious fruits of the tropics. The delicate white juicy pulp surrounding and adhering to the seed is the part eaten. In striking contrast to it is the dense, thick, reddish rind, containing tannic acid and a dye. The tree is of very slow growth and does not usually come into bearing till about nine or ten years old. The essential conditions for it are a hot, moist climate, and deep, rich well-drained soil. Propagation is usually by seed, but may also be effected by "gootee" or layering. (Adapted from Macmillan, Handbook of Tropical Gardening and Planting.) This office has imported several other species of *Garcinia* with the object of finding a suitable stock for the mangosteen on which will make the culture of this remarkable tree possible over a wide range of soils. Some of these stocks wintered through the Florida freeze of 1917 when the thermometer went to 26° F. and are now growing satisfactory. (Fairchild.)

Ipomoea reptans (L.) Poiret. (Convolvulaceae.) 45184. From China. Collected by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer for this Department. "(No. 2387a. Wuchang, Hupeh, China. June 15, 1917.) The **Kuan ts'ai**, an annual herb, is cultivated by the Chinese as a hot weather leaf-vegetable, and is prepared and eaten much like spinach. It is usually sown in rows at intervals during the spring and summer to insure a continuous supply of greens. It thrives best in a rather wet heavy soil, and withstands being submerged (even for several days) without injury. The foliage resembles that of the sweet potato a good deal, but the roots are not fleshy. The young shoots are cut at intervals until the plants become exhausted. The white or pale rose-colored flowers appear in July and August, and shortly after flowering the plants set a good supply