

Citrullus vulgaris (Cucurbitaceae), 48761. **Watermelon.** From Johannesburg, Transvaal. Seeds secured by Dr. H. L. Shantz, agricultural explorer, from G. W. Lawrence, of Prieska, who collected them at Gibeon, Protectorate of Southwest Africa. "M'Tsama melon which grows wild on the great Kalahari desert and constitutes the chief water supply to travelers and dwellers of the desert. This seed may contain both the bitter and the sweet variety. I am unable to determine whether it is annual or perennial. It is by far the most important plant of the Kalahari, if we except the forage grasses. It is valued here as a stock feed and as a food for the natives. It is cooked and water extracted. Buried in the soil it forms a reservoir of water and a storehouse of food for both man and beast. I see no reason why it should not thrive in a wild state in our warmer deserts, and it may survive on dry lands throughout the great plains and intermountain region.

"I have not seen it growing and have not seen the fruit except in pictures, but it is worth giving a thorough trial in the United States." (Shantz.)

Combretum salicifolium (Combretaceae), 48809. From Pretoria, Transvaal. Seeds collected by Dr. H. L. Shantz, agricultural explorer. "A valuable tree for desert river banks, such as those of the Southwest and the southern Great Plains; yields quantities of gum. It is a beautiful tree which grows along all water courses in this semidesert country, especially along the Vaal and Orange rivers. Excellent color and good shade." (Shantz.)

Cucumis sp. (Cucurbitaceae), 48834. From Natal, South Africa. Presented by Mr. W. W. Masterson, American consul, Durban. "Seed and dried rind of a cucumber that is of a very different variety from the ordinary kinds that are raised in gardens the world over. The fruits present the appearance of the ordinary cucumber in regard to size and shape except that they are possibly a little rounder and shorter; but the thing that particularly attracts the attention is the long prickles over the outside like those on the seed pod of a Jimson weed. The vegetable is so tender and so easily digested, that I have with some difficulty procured this ripened specimen for introduction into the United States. The taste is like that of the cucumber, but the flesh cuts so easily, and is so juicy and well-flavored that I feel that the cultivation of this variety is well worth while." (Masterson.)