

cemes late in October. The roots of the "barajillo" are very large and penetrate deeply into the soil; the tubercles formed by the nitrogen-gathering bacteria are usually found only on the upper third of the root. All kinds of cattle are exceedingly fond of this plant; furthermore, it is capable of enduring prolonged drought and of thriving in very poor soil. (Adapted from Revista de Agricultura Tropical, El Salvador, vol. 1, p. 65.)

*Melastoma repens* (Melastomaceae), 55443. From Foochow, China. Seeds presented by C. R. Kellogg. "A low perennial shrub which bears beautiful roselike flowers all summer long. The flowers last only one day, but because of their great number the shrub is always well covered. The fruits are said to be eaten, but have the lack of flavor so common in Chinese fruits." (J. B. Norton.)

*Microcitrus inodora* (Rutaceae), 55447. **Russell River lime.** From Brisbane, Queensland. Seeds presented by C. T. White, Botanic Museum and Herbarium, Botanic Gardens. In general appearance the Russell River lime resembles the orange, having the same dark-green foliage. The very small white flowers are odorless, and the oval or oblong ribbed fruits are about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, with pulp having a sharp but agreeable flavor. This tree is native to the Bellenden-Ker region of North Queensland, and is the only species of the genus which yields fruits of sufficiently good quality to be of promise for culture even without any improvement by cross-breeding or selection. (Adapted from Swingle, Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences, vol. 5, p. 577, and from Bailey, Report of the Government Expedition to Bellenden-Ker Range, p. 34.)

*Phaseolus semirectus* (Fabaceae), 55418. From Gatun, Canal Zone. Seeds presented by J. A. Close. "The long narrow pods are of a leguminous plant which I am trying out as a cover crop. I first noticed the dark-purple flowers, about the size and shape of sweet peas, along the railroad track at Gatun, but the plant did not grow well in the gravel. When planted in heavy clay mixed with charcoal, however, it developed wonderfully, and the vines formed a dense mat which allowed no other vegetation to grow under or through it. The plants grow about 3 feet high, and in the last month of the dry season the ground was covered with the decaying