

"The 'frutilla,' as it is called, was not cultivated in Ecuador previous to the Conquest. Garcilaso de la Vega recounts that it was brought to the highlands of Peru from Chile in 1557, and it probably reached Ecuador at an even later date. The native home of the large-fruited sorts which are grown in these three countries is somewhere in Chile. In 1714 the species was introduced into Europe, through the efforts of M. Frezier, a Frenchman who carried plants with him from the region of Concepcion, Chile. Up to that time, large-fruited strawberries were not known in Europe. Horticulturists had contented themselves with the native wood strawberry (*F. vesca*), the Hautbois (*F. moschata* or *F. elatior*), and the Virginian strawberry (*F. virginiana*), which latter was not introduced from America until after 1600. All of these are small fruited, though of good flavor and quality. By crossing with progeny of the plants brought from Chile by M. Frezier, horticultural forms were developed which combined large size with delicate flavor, especially in those cases where *F. virginiana* entered into the combination. The varieties thus obtained were the progenitors of the cultivated sorts now grown not only in Europe, but also in North America and elsewhere.

"Plant breeders of the present day are utilizing *Fragaria chiloensis* in the production of new horticultural varieties through crossing with cultivated forms as well as wild species. The securing of many different strains of *F. chiloensis* has become, therefore, a matter of importance. Though there is a remarkable lack of apparent variation among the strawberries of Ecuador, Peru, and Chile, - only two well-defined forms being cultivated, one white fruited, the other red, - it seems reasonable to believe that slight variations do occur, and that differences in productiveness as well as fruit characteristics may have passed unobserved, due to the fact that the cultivated strawberries of South America have received little study. The Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction is interested in securing, for the use of plant breeders, plants or seeds of *F. chiloensis* from as many sources as possible. (See S.P.I. No. 58024 for other information concerning this plant.)" (Wilson Popenoe.)

GARCINIA MANGOSTANA (Clusiaceae), 58027. **Mangosteen.** From Paris, France. Seeds purchased from Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. "For more than twenty years the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction has been interested in the establishment of the Asiatic mangosteen, reputed to be the 'Queen of Fruits,' in the tropical American dependencies of the United States. Dr. David Fairchild, who investigated its cultural requirements in Ceylon, Siam, Cochin China and Java, reached the conclusion that 'the acclimatization of the mangosteen on the Island of Porto Rico, and in many other parts of tropical America, is a possibility, and that the principal difficulties of its culture have probably arisen from an ignorance of the soil conditions demanded by the plant.'