



ELAEAGNUS ANGUSTIFOLIA. OLEASTER.

"A row of very old oleasters planted along an irrigation canal, benefiting the grain fields in the vicinity by protecting them against the scorching desert winds; also preventing the irrigation canal from silting up by keeping its banks firm by means of their masses of roots." From photograph by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, taken near Guma, Chinese Turkestan, November 16, 1910.

Although in his description Mr. Meyer discusses fully the multifarious uses of this very interesting plant, and calls attention to two of its especially valuable characteristics, its remarkable drought resistance, and its value as a fixer of nitrogen, he probably fails to do justice to the very considerable fruit value of the large-fruited forms. This photograph gives no adequate idea of the considerable size to which the tree sometimes grows, as it not infrequently attains a circumference of ten feet at a height of five feet above the ground, with a height of twenty to twenty-five feet.

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