

year. As each tenant does the same thing, only with a different assortment, each field of chacras is yearly sown with a hundred or more different collections of seeds, selected especially by taste only and not by sight. Atoms of pollen aviate great distances, and as no two melon patches are a greater distance than 60 meters apart, the aerial hybridizing commences and ends with the bloom. In this way every melon ripens with its seeds crossed by some other or others of equal, but perhaps different merits. Every year new kinds of melons are created and these ignorant people are selectors by taste instead of scientific attainments. There are no people better fit to judge of melon quality than these, as they live upon them during their season. As this breeding process of crossing improved sorts is continued, year after year, it is not surprising that Chilean melons have reached a high degree of excellence. The seed sent was a production of this year, having flavor, quantity, and character of its own, so firm as to be a good shipper. If its merits can be reproduced it is extra good, but as they are already crossed there is no security." (Husbands.) For distribution later.

CUMINUM CYMINUM. (Apiaceae.) 33646. Seeds of cumin from Valletta, Malta. Presented by Mr. James Oliver Laing, American consul. "The seed of the cumin plant is raised in Malta and the most of the crop is exported. It has various uses: It forms the flavoring basis of several drinks, among them kümmel. Cumin seed is also used in the Netherlands and several other places as a flavoring for cheese. In Syria and Egypt and probably in other Mohammedan countries it is used as a condiment. Cumin is of the parsley family and has fennel-like leaves. It is a cultivated crop in Malta but I have seen it growing wild in Egypt and the hills of the Palestine hinterland. Altitude seems to affect the growth of the plant very little. In Malta it is grown a few feet above the sea and within a stone's throw of it and it also grows wild in the highland valleys of Hindustan, 7000 feet above the sea and inland. The Malta cumin plant grows about one foot or a little less in height. Cumin is planted in Malta in January or February and the crop is ready for the harvest in June or July. Weather conditions (rain and temperature) make a few weeks difference occasionally in the times for planting and reaping. One crop a year is raised and it must be planted each year. No attempt is made at cultivation while the crop is growing. When ready to be harvested the whole plant is pulled up by the roots by hand. This is easy as the roots are readily broken and the soil is very porous and light. After pulling the plants from the ground, they are beaten against a board or bar to knock the seeds loose. Seeds are winnowed to