

**29117 to 29121. ASPARAGUS spp.**

From Paris, France. Purchased from Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. Received December 5, 1910.

Seeds of the following climbing varieties:

**29117.** ASPARAGUS BLAMPEDII Hort.

**29118.** ASPARAGUS CRISPUS Lam.

See No. 28923 for previous introduction.

**29119.** ASPARAGUS COMORENSIS Hort.

**29120.** ASPARAGUS SCANDENS DEFLEXUS Baker.

*Distribution.*—In woods on the lower slopes of the mountains in the Somerset division of the central region of Cape Colony and in the vicinity of Cape Town.

**29121.** ASPARAGUS VERTICILLATUS L.

“Fruit red. Height 3 to 4 meters. Foliage ornamental from April to October.”

*Distribution.*—Southeastern Europe and western Asia, extending from Turkey through the Caucasus region to the southern part of Siberia and northern Persia.

**29122. CORDEAUXIA EDULIS Hemsl.****Yeheb nut.**

From Kew, England. Presented by Dr. David Prain, director, Royal Botanic Gardens. Received December 2, 1910.

“The yeheb plant grows in poor sandy soil in the dry regions of Italian Somaliland. The underground soil is said to be somewhat moist and at certain seasons of the year there are regular and plentiful rains in the localities where the plant grows.

“The yeheb forms an evergreen bush about 4 to 6 feet high and the seeds are an important article of food among the Somalis.

“Its seeds, called nuts, have a high food value, containing 21 per cent of cane sugar, 2 per cent of reducing sugars, 13 per cent of proteids, and 37 per cent of carbohydrates. They form an article of commerce and are brought to the coast by caravans. They are eaten by the native Dolbahanta Somalis in preference to rice and dates. Though the climate of Somaliland is not well known, the indications are that where this plant grows long periods of drought occur, but rains are abundant and regular at certain seasons of the year. Winter temperatures probably do not go below freezing. The plant quickly forms a long taproot, bears when only 4 feet high, has evergreen leaves which if crushed stain the fingers a magenta color, and grows into a large tree.

“At Kew seedlings have been raised without difficulty under moist tropical conditions, but it is hoped that it may be possible to establish the plant in dry regions where the soil is poor and the conditions are similar to those of its native country.” (See Kew Bulletin, 1908, No. 1, pp. 36-44, and No. 3, p. 141.)

“I doubt very much if Florida will suit this plant, but the southern part of California seems more hopeful. It is evident, however, from its behavior with us that it is one of those desert plants which insist on having desert conditions so far at least as the surface is concerned, though I suspect it likes to be able to tap a deep supply of water. Perhaps a sand draw, provided such can be found in a region sufficiently hot, would be the ideal locality for it.” (Prain.)

**29123 and 29124. CITRUS LIMETTA Risso.****Lime.**

From Trinidad, British West Indies. Collected and presented by Mr. G. P. Wilder, of Hawaii. Received December 7, 1910.

Cuttings of the following; notes by Mr. Wilder:

**29123.** “Spineless lime, from St. Clair Experiment Station, Port of Spain.

This lime had few seeds, juice was of fine quality, shape roundish and depressed. There are about 6 to 8 trees, very healthy and robust. The entire wood is free from thorns.”