

9603. DRACUNCULUS CANARIENSIS.

From Monte, Grand Canary, Canary Islands. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1176, April 17, 1903), May 4, 1903.

"A giant aroid with spathes sometimes 14 to 16 inches long. Yellowish or greenish in color. Leaves deeply lobed and ornamental. Grows 6 to 8 feet in height in moist places in the mountains of Grand Canary. Might prove useful for breeders of the calla lily because of its large size. This was called to our attention by Mr. A. Delnard, of Monte." (*Fairchild.*)

9604. PORTULACARIA AFRA.**Spek-boom.**

From Cape Town, South Africa. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1130, March 8, 1903), May 6, 1903.

Spek-boom. "This bush, which grows sometimes 12 to 15 feet high, forms one of the most valuable fodder elements of the northeastern Karroo, in Cape Colony. It is a succulent-leaved species, greedily eaten by horned stock, and well worth thorough trial in the frostless, dry lands of our southwestern States. The cuttings should be placed in the hands of the gardeners of a few interested ranch owners and at the experiment stations in the States where the plant is likely to prove of value, with the understanding that they are to be grown and multiplied and small patches of mother plants started from which cuttings can be taken. The cuttings and young plants must be protected from gophers, rats, mice, or prairie dogs until several years old. At least the mother plantations should be so protected. This is not a desert plant, but simply a species which has the power to withstand a long, dry season, and because of the avidity with which live stock eat its leaves and stems it is worth acclimatizing in the frostless regions of America. It thrives best on rocky slopes and needs protection from the wind by wind-breaks. These cuttings were made from a tree growing in the grounds of the South African Museum, in Cape Town, which tree was planted many years ago by Professor MacOwan. They are a gift to the American ranchman from this veteran Cape botanist who has done so much to call attention to the good qualities of the *Spek-boom*. The climate of the region in which the tree lives is illustrated by these figures: Absolute maximum temperature for ten years (1881-1890), 108° F., absolute minimum, 21° F. Rainfall average for ten years, 18.76 inches per annum, occurring in the warm season." (*Fairchild.*)

9605. PORTULACARIA AFRA.

From Oatlands, South Africa. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1155, March 16, 1903), May 6, 1903.

Spek-boom. "These cuttings came from the typical Karroo, where the plant is highly prized for fodder purposes. It may prove slightly different from those taken from a tree in Cape Town, No. 9604. These cuttings were collected by Mr. Nash, of the Cape department of agriculture, and secured through Mr. Davison, chief sheep inspector of the department." (*Fairchild.*) (For description see No. 9604.)

9606. ANANAS SATIVUS.**Pineapple.**

From Lower Albany, Trapps Valley, South Africa. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1154, March 16, 1903), May 6, 1903.

Natal. "This is evidently the same variety of pineapple as No. 9485. Fresh pineapples from this region which we tested were not as fine flavored as those we ate in Natal, but the fact that they had been picked green should be taken into consideration. Should it grow as well in Florida as it does here it would prove a great success. Secured through the kindness of Mr. Eustace Pillans, agricultural assistant of Cape department of agriculture, from C. J. Ansley, Trapps Valley, Cape Colony." (*Fairchild.*)

9607. VITIS RUPESTRIS VAR. METALLICA.**Grape.**

From Cape Town, South Africa. Presented by the Cape department of agriculture through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1137, March 10, 1903). Received May 6, 1903.

"A resistant American stock of South African origin, which has proved itself most admirably suited to the conditions at the Cape, and especially adapted to 'any loose