

9610. MUSA SAPIENTUM.**Banana.**

From Las Palmas, Grand Canary, Canary Islands. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1169, April 12, 1903), May 6, 1903.

Manzana or Silver. "Young shoots from the base of a few plants of the *Silver* banana of Madeira, which variety is thought by the residents of this island to be a very superior sort and to have originated in Madeira. The fruits which we tasted were good, but not remarkable. They had an acid flavor, were juicy, had light-colored flesh, and though very refreshing as a change from the ordinary type of banana, were not especially to be recommended." (Fairchild.)

9611. STRYCHNOS SPINOSA (?)**Kafir orange.**

From Mozambique, East Africa. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1103, February 8, 1903), May 6, 1903.

"Seed (*poisonous*) of the Kafir orange, a native fruit of Portuguese East Africa. The tree is grown in Delagoa Bay only occasionally, and the Kafirs crack open the calabash-like fruit and eat the brown, plum-like flesh which surrounds the many flat angular seeds. These seeds are said to be *very poisonous*, but the flesh is quite refreshing. That of the specimen which we tasted was like a brandied peach into which cloves had been stuck. The spicy aroma of the fruit is perceptible before the hard shell has been broken open and forms one of its best characteristics. The fruits are cannon ball shaped and very heavy, and the green shell is so hard that it has to be broken with a heavy blow. It is in many ways a remarkable fruit, and although the data regarding it are meager it is well worth a place in Porto Rico, Florida, and Hawaiian gardens." (Fairchild.)

9612. CARISSA ARDUINA.

From Cape Town, South Africa. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1110, February 26, 1903), May 6, 1903.

"A beautiful, thorny, evergreen shrub, suited to frostless regions. It would be suited for hedge making and as an ornamental, for its white flowers and oblong, bright red fruits show off strikingly against its dark-green foliage. Like *CariSSa grandiflora*, its fruits, resembling a large barberry fruit, are good to eat, having a sweet, fresh, but somewhat characterless taste. Standing alone this species produces a prettier shaped shrub than *C. grandiflora* and is well worth the attention of gardeners in California and Florida. These seeds are from fruit gathered in the municipal gardens in Cape Town. Breeders should be encouraged to try crossing these two species. There are other representatives of the genus in South Africa which might be used in breeding experiments. *C. acuminata*, A. D. C., is listed for Natal by J. Medley Wood in his 'Indigenous Plants of Natal'; von Mueller lists *C. brownii*, F. V. M., from East Australia, and *C. carandus* L., from India to China. All these species have edible fruits." (Fairchild.)

9613. MEDICAGO ARBOREA.**Tree lucern.**

From Cape Town, South Africa. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1111, March 3, 1903), May 6, 1903.

"Seed of the *Tree lucern*, which is said to occur in southern Europe, especially in Greece. It is, according to von Mueller in his 'Extra Tropical Plants,' page 300, the 'Cytisus' of the ancient Greeks and Romans. The plant forms a shrub 7 to 8 feet high with thick, woody stems 3 inches in diameter, which sprawl more or less over the ground. These seeds are from a single specimen in the Municipal Gardens at Cape Town, and Professor MacOwan informs me that the plant has not attracted much attention here as a fodder plant, though it grows well. For plant breeders only who are at work on the genus *Medicago*." (Fairchild.)

9614. SOLANUM sp.

From Cape Town, South Africa. Received through Messrs. Lathrop and Fairchild (No. 1112, March 3, 1903), May 6, 1903.

"Seed of a tree *Solanum*, of decided ornamental value, which is growing in the Municipal Gardens at Cape Town and which has never been specifically determined.