

**23436. COLCHIUM AUTUMNALE L. Meadow saffron.**

From York, England. Purchased from J. Backhouse & Son (Limited) for Dr. R. H. True's experiments. Received August 11, 1908.

"A low, perennial, bulbous plant, native in moist meadow lands in middle and southern Europe. The corms and seeds are used in preparing the extract and wine of colchicum and the alkaloid colchicin and its salts, employed in the treatment of gout.

"Cultivated as an ornamental. Flowers in autumn.

"This plant possesses very active properties, a small portion of the root or seeds taken internally being sufficient to cause poisoning." (*True.*)

**23437. GLADIOLUS spp. Gladiolus.**

From Pretoria, South Africa. Presented by Prof. J. Burt Davy. Received August 7, 1908.

"Corms of our native gladioli. There is more than one species represented in this collection." (*Davy.*)

**23438 to 23446.**

From Bagdad, Turkey. Procured by Mr. William C. Magelssen, American consul. Received August 11, 1908.

The following seeds:

**23438. PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA L. Date.**

*Aschcrasi.*

**23439 to 23446. ZIZYPHUS JUJUBA (L.) Lam. "Nabuk."**

**23439.** *Aschcrasi.* **23443.** *Khadrawi.*

**23440.** *Khastawi.* **23444.** *Zeytouni.*

**23441.** *Zehdi.* **23445.** *Josi.*

**23442.** *Berben.* **23446.** *Taberzat.*

"The foliage of the Nabuk tree appears to be equally luxuriant on all varieties, and there is no choice so far as their growth is concerned. The fruit differs slightly in taste and quality; it is eaten by the poorer classes of Mohammedans and Jews. I am informed that the natives make it a practice to soak the seed in rose water before planting, claiming that this tends to increase the beauty of the tree and the flavor of the fruit. The Nabuk is certainly the finest shade tree grown in these parts, and I judge from the scant care given it that the tree must be an exceptionally hardy one." (*Magelssen.*)

**23449. AMYGDALUS PERSICA L. Peach.**

From Pretoria, Transvaal. Presented by Mr. R. A. Davis, government horticulturist, Transvaal Department of Agriculture. Received August 13, 1908.

"These seeds are from a natural variety, *St. Helena*, or *Transvaal Yellow*, always coming true. As a fruit, they are a good cling canner, but otherwise useless. As a stock, they are unequalled for wet, dry, rocky, or loamy soil; will germinate and fruit in two years if thrown from a railway carriage window into a rocky crevice. I think it should be very useful in California." (*Davis.*)

**23450. AGATHIS AUSTRALIS (Lamb.) Steud. Kauri pine.**

From Auckland, New Zealand. Presented by Mr. D. Petrie. Received August 13, 1908.

"This magnificent tree measures, under favorable circumstances, 180 feet in height and exceptionally 17 feet in diameter of stem, the estimated, but perhaps overrated, age of such a tree being 700 to 800 years. It furnishes an excellent, remarkably durable timber, straight grained, and much in use for