

"Since this cactus is of rapid growth and comparatively free of spines, it is worthy of attention as an ornamental hedge and as a fodder plant." (*Report of the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station, 1914, p. 17 and 32.*)

39854 and 39855. CUCUMIS MELO L. Cucurbitaceæ.

Muskmelon.

From Madrid, Spain. Presented by Señor Gregorio Cruz Valero. Received January 14, 1915. Quoted notes by Señor Valero.

39854. "Seeds of a single winter melon. This is cultivated here alternately with cereals in dry lands. It does especially well in dry farming. The earth is argillaceous, calcareous, and silicate to a great depth. In Tunis, after the cereal which precedes it is harvested, it receives in September or October a good working to a depth of 30 cm., to receive the water from the autumn rains. In February it is given another more superficial working, and at the coming of spring, the first of March or April, it is given a third working, preparatory to sowing. Sowing requires the opening of holes to a depth of 25 cm. or less. After this a layer of manure is placed in the holes to a depth of 4 cm., and then loose earth. On this four or five seeds are sown and covered with loose earth. The successive operations consist of continuous efforts to prevent the dust mulch from being lost and to avoid evaporation. During the growing season there is little rain and storms are rare. The distance between the hills is 2 to 2.25 meters, according to the condition of the earth, and about the same between the rows. The harvesting is done in September. The degree of ripeness at which the fruit should be separated from the plant is known by the fact that it is quite white and has reached the highest development, and before the odor is noticed. I have said that four or five seeds should be placed in each hill, but after germination, when they have reached a development of 25 to 30 cm., the two strongest, or the strongest plant, is left and the distance between the plants is made accordingly."

39855. "Mixed winter melon seed, selected from the same variety as S. P. I. No. 39854."

39856 to 39858.

From Cairo, Egypt. Presented by Mr. Thomas W. Brown, director, Horticultural Division, Gizeh Branch, Ministry of Agriculture. Cuttings received February 3, 1915. Quoted notes by Mr. Brown.

39856. TAMARIX APHYLLA (L.) Karsten. Tamaricaceæ. Tamarisk.

"This is by far the best of the Egyptian species for cultivation as a timber tree on desert land. We have employed it largely as a wind and sand break, at the sewage farm at Khanka, which is situated on what was unreclaimed desert land. The cuttings were planted along shallow water channels, containing in one case chlorine equivalent to sodium chloride to the extent of 1,272 parts per million and in another case to the extent of 2,028 parts per million. *Tamarix aphylla* very rarely produces seed here."

Distribution.—A tree 20 to 30 feet high, found in Algeria and Egypt in northern Africa, and from Persia and Arabia eastward to India.

39857 and 39858. FICUS SYCOMORUS L. Moraceæ.

Fig.

39857. "Var. *Roumi*; usually eaten at Cairo."

39858. "Var. *Kilabi*; never eaten."

For an illustration of this remarkable tree, see Plate II.