

40783 and 40784. CUCUMIS SATIVUS L. Cucurbitaceæ.**Cucumber.**

From Seharunpur, India. Presented by Mr. A. C. Hartless, superintendent, Government Gardens. Received May 19, 1915. Quoted notes by Mr. Hartless.

40783. "This is a variety of the common cucumber of dwarf bushy habit, producing an egg-shaped fruit, dark green and more or less mottled with white markings when young and of the same rusty brown color when ripe. Although not the gherkin of the West Indies, familiar to most persons in its pickled state, its fruit resembles that of the latter; hence its Anglo-Indian appellation. Like the common climbing cucumber, it will succeed in any good soil, but it requires more aid from manure than the former to bear abundantly. When preparing the ground for the reception of the seed, it should therefore be liberally enriched with manure of the farmyard class, then laid out in ridges 6 inches high and 15 inches apart, and the seeds sown along the two sides of the ridges at 3 or 4 inches asunder. The furrows between the ridges should be watered every fourth or fifth day, and the soil stirred and loosened at every opportunity. As the plants yield the immature fruit required at table for only a limited period of time, sowings should be made at intervals of a fortnight from the beginning of March to the end of May. This variety of cucumber is a purely hot-weather crop and does not succeed if sown during the rainy season."

40784. "Long green; rainy season."

40785 to 40787.

From Tiflis, Caucasus, Russia. Presented by the director, Botanic Gardens. Received May 10, 1915.

40785. MESPIL GERMANICA L. Malaceææ.

Medlar.

(*Pyrus germanica* Hook. f.)

See S. P. I. Nos. 8298, 27702, and 29197 for previous introductions and description.

"A low deciduous tree of crooked, picturesque habit, usually under 20 feet high; young branchlets very hairy, older ones armed with stiff, straight spines one-half to 1 inch long. Leaves almost without stalks, lanceolate or oval, 2 to 5 inches long, minutely toothed, downy on both surfaces, but more so beneath. Flowers solitary at the end of short leafy branches; about 1 inch across, white or slightly pink, produced on a very short woolly stalk, in May or early June. Petals five, roundish; sepals covered with gray wool, triangular at the base, drawn out into a long, narrow point standing out beyond the petals. Fruit 5 celled, apple shaped, brown, with a broad open eye, surrounded by the persistent calyx, and showing the ends of the bony seed vessels. The wild medlar is a native of Europe and Asia Minor, and is found wild in the woods of several counties in the south of England, notably Sussex and Kent, but it is not believed to be truly indigenous. It has long been cultivated for its fruit in English orchards, and several named varieties exist. The cultivated forms are distinguished by thornless or nearly thornless branches, by larger, broader leaves, and by larger fruits, up to 1½ or 2 inches across. Although much esteemed by those who have acquired the taste for them, medlars are not a popular fruit. They should be left on