

41504 to 41508.

Seeds from Matania El Saff, Egypt. Presented by Mr. Alfred Bircher, Middle Egypt Botanic Station. Received November 30, 1915.

41504. CARISSA GRANDIFLORA (E. Mey.) DC. Apocynaceæ. Natal plum.

"This handsome shrub, 15 to 18 feet in height, originally from South Africa, is cultivated in southern Florida and southern California for ornament and for its scarlet edible fruits the size of a plum. It is considered one of the best hedge plants in South Africa and is sometimes used for this purpose in the United States. The foliage is dense, glossy green in color; leaves opposite, thick, and leathery, 1 to 2 inches long, flowers star shaped, fragrant, about 2 inches across and borne in small terminal cymes. The plant blooms most abundantly in the early spring, but produces a few scattering flowers throughout the year; their waxy texture and fragrance are suggestive of the jasmine. The fruits, most of which ripen in summer, are ovoid or elliptic in form, commonly 1 to 2 inches long, with a thin skin inclosing the firm granular, reddish pulp, toward the center of which are several thin papery seeds, sometimes as many as twenty or more. The fruit is very attractive in appearance, but is not generally relished when eaten out of hand; its flavor suggests the raspberry or cranberry, and when stewed it yields a sauce which greatly resembles that made from the latter fruit. It is also used for jelly and preserves. It is not of commercial importance in the United States, but is frequently planted in gardens for ornament and fruit. When used as a hedge plant it withstands shearing admirably, but yields little fruit under these conditions. Its growth is compact and low, and it has the interesting habit of branching dichotomously. The plant is easily propagated by layering, and it is not difficult to bud, using the common method of shield budding. Late spring is the best time to do the work." (Adapted from W. Popenoe, in *Bailey, Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, under *Natal plum*, vol. 4, p. 2114.)

See S. P. I. Nos. 11734, 28722, and 34166 for previous introductions.

41505. CARISSA GRANDIFLORA (E. Mey.) DC. Apocynaceæ. Natal plum.

See previous number (S. P. I. No. 41504) for description.

41506. CARISSA CARANDAS L. Apocynaceæ. Caraunda.

"*Maha-karamba* (Singhalese), *Perunkila* (Tamil). A small tree or large shrub, with sharp, rigid, forked thorns and oval leaves, native of the dry region of Ceylon; also of India and Malaya. It blossoms chiefly in February and March and ripens its fruits in August and September. The fruit when ripe much resembles a damson, both in size and color, but in the interior are a number of small seeds. In India it is made into a pickle just before it is ripe, and is also used in tarts and puddings, being considered to resemble gooseberries in flavour. For these purposes it is said to be superior to any other Indian fruit. When ripe it makes a very good jelly. The plant is commonly employed for barrier hedges, for which purpose it is well suited. Propagated from seed. Suited to dry districts at low elevations." (*MacMillan, Handbook of Tropical Gardening and Planting*, 2d ed., p. 149.)

See S. P. I. Nos. 23750 and 34364 for previous introductions.

41507. PHOENIX FARINIFERA Roxburgh. Phœnicaceæ. Palm.

Habitat, India and South China. A dwarf species, having a stem 2 feet high, completely enveloped by the leaf sheaths; fronds 6 feet long,