

**42179. PLATANUS ORIENTALIS L. Platanaceæ. Oriental plane tree.**

From Lahore, India. Presented by the superintendent, Government Agricultural Gardens. Received March 17, 1916.

"A deciduous tree of the largest size, in this country occasionally 80 to 100 feet high and 14 to 20 feet in girth of trunk. Native of southeastern Europe and Asia Minor; cultivated in England in the middle of the sixteenth century. The true oriental plane is comparatively rare in gardens, having been ousted by the more rapidly growing London plane, which is not so picturesque nor so pleasing as an isolated lawn tree. It is easily distinguished from *acerifolia* by its shorter, more rugged trunk and its deeper, often doubly lobed leaves. Few trees are longer lived than this. On the banks of the Bosphorus there is a group of trees under which the knights of Godfrey de Bouillon on their way to the crusades are said to have been sheltered in 1096. Under a tree still living on the island of Cos in the Aegean Sea, its trunk 18 yards in circumference, tradition says that Hippocrates sat more than 400 years B. C. There is no direct evidence to support these stories, but they point to the perhaps unequalled longevity of the plane among European trees. In his account of fine British specimens Mr. Elwes gives first place to one in the palace gardens at Ely, planted by Bishop Gunning between 1674 and 1678. It is over 100 feet high and more than 20 feet in girth. A fine specimen at Kew, near the sundial and on the site of the famous seventeenth-century gardens of Sir Henry Capel of Kew House, has a trunk 15 feet in girth." (*W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 203.*)

**42180. BARYXYLUM DUBIUM (Spreng.) Pierre. Cæsalpiniaceæ.**

(*Peltophorum vogelianum* Walp.)

From Davie, Fla. Presented by Mr. Robert Werner, horticulturist, Davie Board of Trade. Received March 20, 1916.

Seeds of a large tree 50 to 60 feet high, broad and spreading, giving fine shade. A handsome ornamental tree. Flowers bright yellow with golden yellow anthers. Called *cana fistula* in Brazil, but this name properly belongs to another plant.

See S. P. I. No. 37901 for description.

**42181 and 42182.**

From Paris, France. Purchased from Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. Received March 18, 1916.

**42181. INDIGOFERA TINCTORIA L. Fabaceæ.**

**Indigo.**

"A blue dye is obtained from species of *Indigofera*, chiefly *Indigofera anil* (of the West Indies) and *I. tinctoria* (of India and Africa). Both are shrubby plants of the leguminous family and occur in a wild state in Ceylon up to about 2,000 feet. India and Java are almost the only indigo-producing countries. Owing partly to the unhealthiness of the operations in connection with its production, but chiefly to the introduction of synthetic indigo, the cultivation of the plant has in recent years been largely abandoned. Of late, however, the industry appears to have somewhat recovered, the natural indigo being preferred by many manufacturers to the artificial production. The best conditions for the profitable cultivation of the plant are a rich loamy soil with a free subsoil and a moist hot atmosphere; a temperature below 60° F. is unfavorable to the crop. The land being plowed and harrowed, the seed is sown in lines about 2 feet apart. The seed being small, 10 to 15 pounds