

fruits. The tree grows freely in rich, dry pine-land soil and, like all the other species of this group, it does not seem to require much attention. To Mr. Theo. L. Mead belongs the credit of having introduced this palm into cultivation, but I think his specimens on rich moist land all have perished. It is perfectly hardy and should be grown everywhere in the State and all along the Gulf coast where the soil is suitable." (*H. Nehrling, Transactions of the Florida State Horticultural Society, vol. 22, p. 156 (1909), under Cocos datil.*)

43239 to 43242.

From Burringbar, New South Wales, Australia. Presented by Mr. B. Harrison. Received August 30, 1916.

43239. CHAETOCHLOA NIGRIROSTRIS (Nees) Skeels. Poaceæ. Grass.
(*Setaria nigrirostris* Dur. and Schinz.)

A hardy tufted grass which has made good growth. Although the leaves are a little hard, there is a very large quantity in proportion to the stem; the grass appears to be a quick succulent grower, carries a good quantity of seed, and grows well in New South Wales. (Adapted from *E. Breakwell, Agricultural Gazette, New South Wales, Feb. 2, 1916.*)

43240. BRACHIARIA BRIZANTHA (Hochst.) Stapf. Poaceæ. Grass.
(*Panicum brizanthum* Hochst.)

"This grass is a native of the Transvaal bush veldt. Capt. W. H. F. Hughes, of Zeerust, writes that it grows well on the poorest sandy soil and that cattle are very fond of it. The only previous record we have of its value as a pasture grass is a note from a farmer near Salisbury, Rhodesia, stating that it is eaten by cattle there. We have no record of any vernacular name by which this grass is known." (*J. Burt Davy, Agricultural Journal, Union of South Africa, vol. 1, No. 5, p. 706, June, 1911.*)

43241. PENNISETUM PURPUREUM Schum. Poaceæ. Grass.

"The great value of prolific and drought-resistant fodder plants, which are generally very difficult to procure, is well known to stock owners, and the above variety, which as yet is but little known, can be most highly commended for both of these qualities. With me last season, which was a very dry one and which was a most disastrous one for stock, this grass grew to the height of nearly 11 feet and produced a large quantity of succulent, nutritious, and fattening fodder, which is greatly relished by the stock and is, according to analysis, much richer than green maize. A reliable official says: 'There is a consensus of opinion that in this plant we have found a fodder of great value, which remains green even during such long periods as from six to eight months when other herbage is parched up or destroyed.' It grows rapidly to a height of 12 feet or more in favorable weather, thrives well in various soils, and resists both frost and drought to a remarkable extent. At 7 feet high it has produced 12 tons of green fodder per acre, and a few months later 15 tons, making a total yield of 27 tons per acre. It is everlasting when once established, and the tufts or stems increase in size after each cutting or when grazed off. It should prove of untold value to farmers in South Africa, who suffer much loss through frequent and protracted droughts, in the East Indies, and in other countries where a light rainfall and semiarid conditions prevail. As a prolific and drought-resistant plant it promises to prove one of the very best brought into cultivation." (*Harrison.*)