

47951. SOLANUM QUITOENSE Lam. Solanaceæ. Naranjilla.

From Guayaquil, Ecuador. Presented by Dr. H. R. Carter, assistant surgeon general, United States Marine Hospital, Baltimore, Md., who obtained them from Dr. M. E. Connor, Guayaquil. Received August 9, 1919.

"The fruit of the naranjilla is about the size of a mandarin orange; it is orange-yellow, but not flattened as much as the mandarin. The interior resembles that of a tomato or eggplant. I was told by Mr. Elizade, secretary of state of Ecuador, that it grew in the warm countries near Quito, i. e., at a lower altitude; and I feel reasonably sure that I saw a growing plant in the barren country on the upper Magdalena near Girardot, Colombia, but having no opportunity to examine it I am not positive. This plant resembled a large eggplant, 4 to 5 feet high, and was covered with fruit, some yellow and some green. I am told by the same man that it fruits when young, i. e., the first season; and from what I heard I thought it might do so from Thomasville, Ga., southward, and in southern California. The fruit, which ripens in July, is too acid to be eaten out of hand, although I liked it, but it is used as a flavor for frescos (soft drinks) and ice cream." (Carter.)

47952 to 47954.

From Vereeniging, Transvaal. Presented by Mr. J. Burt Davy. Received August 11, 1919.

47952. AGATHOSMA CHORTOPHILA Eckl. and Zeyh. Rutaceæ.

"Leaves of various species of *Agathosma*, of the Cape region, are used like buchu, but are of a more delicate and agreeable odor." (*National Standard Dispensatory, 1905, p. 1335.*)

47953. BAROSMA BETULINA (Bergius) Bartl. and Wendl. Rutaceæ.**Buchu.**

The honey buchu, a branching, evergreen shrub, the best variety of buchu, is found on South African mountain slopes in red sandy loam, at altitudes between 1,000 and 2,000 feet. It is bushy and compact and reaches a height of 3 to 4 feet, though it may grow taller. On account of the starlike purple flowers this plant compares favorably, as an ornamental, with the gardenia and camellia. The small light-green leaves are smooth and leathery and are covered on each surface with oil glands. A greenish yellow oil is extracted from the leaves by using alcohol or boiling water. When exposed to cold, the oil deposits a solid barosma camphor which, when purified, has the odor of peppermint. The leaves are harvested by clipping the twigs at the beginning of March. The oil content is highest in January and February, but the seeds are then still on the plants and clipping at this time would result in their loss for propagating purposes. In clipping, care is taken to have a sufficient number of buds for the next year's growth. Leaves of one year's growth are far superior to those 2 years old. They are astringent and contain a bitter substance which acts beneficially on the stomach. The Hottentots and Bushmen use a solution of the leaves for bladder and kidney complaints, and the roots for snake bites. (Adapted from *The Agricultural Journal of the Union of South Africa, vol. 6, p. 80*, and *The Agricultural Journal, Cape of Good Hope, vol. 6, p. 147.*)