

55619 to 55620—Continued.

tude. The pinnate leaves, 4 to 6 feet in length, are borne on a trunk 6 to 12 feet high, and the very numerous flowers, occurring on a densely flowered, much-branched spadix, are pale pink. The young inflorescence is eaten by the natives of New Zealand. (Adapted from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, pl. 5139.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 54298.

55620. VITEX LUCENS Kirk. Verbenaceæ.**Puriri.**

A fine tree, from 50 to 60 feet in height, native to New Zealand, but restricted to the northern part of North Island. It is often called the New Zealand oak on account of the strength and durability of its wood, which is not injured by damp or exposure and is therefore extremely valuable for shipbuilding purposes. The logs are often perforated with holes, the work of a soft-bodied grub which develops into the puriri moth. These holes do not affect the timber except that it sometimes has to be cut to disadvantage.

The handsome, bright glossy green leaves are three to five foliolate with leaflets 3 to 4 inches long. The pink or red 2-lipped flowers, produced more or less all the year round, are in axillary clusters of four to eight. The roots of the puriri never penetrate deeply into the ground, but lie near the surface, so the tree is easily blown over in a gale. (Adapted from *Laing and Blackwell, Plants of New Zealand*, p. 350.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 47881.

55621. ILEX PARAGUARIENSIS St. Hil. Aquifoliaceæ. Yerba maté.

From Buenos Aires, Argentina. Plants presented by D. S. Bullock, agricultural commissioner, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture. Received August 9, 1922.

A small, bushy evergreen tree with alternate serrate leaves, native to Brazil and Paraguay and the neighboring countries. The leaves are roasted and ground to make the Paraguay tea of commerce, which is said to possess the desirable properties of tea and coffee without their injurious aftereffects.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 55489.

55622. DATURA LEICHHARDTII F. Muell. Solanaceæ.

From Brisbane, Queensland. Seeds presented by C. T. White, Government botanist. Received August 9, 1922.

Introduced for the use of geneticists working on the chromosome behavior of this genus.

A tall coarse herb with irregularly toothed oval leaves 3 to 4 inches long, pale yellowish white flowers about 3 inches in length, and very prickly globular capsules about an inch in diameter. The plant is native in northern Australia. (Adapted from *Bentham, Flora Australiensis*, vol. 4, p. 468.)

55623. PHLEUM PRATENSE L. Poaceæ.**Timothy.**

From Christiania, Norway. Presented by Dr. N. Wille, director, Botanic Garden. Received August 8, 1922.

"This strain of timothy is from Lierfoss, Norway, where seed culture has been carried on for 20 years." (*Wille*.)

Locally grown seed introduced for timothy breeding experiments.

55624. CITRUS sp. Rutaceæ.

From Johannesburg, Transvaal. Seeds presented by Col. A. J. Bester. Received August 15, 1922.

"When I visited the great Symbabian ruins in central Africa in 1911 I discovered a new citrus fruit; I collected seeds and brought them back, and now the variety is distributed all over the Transvaal. The smooth-skinned fruits are much like a big lime in shape and the abundant fine-flavored juice is very sweet." (*Bester*.)