

"All of these are good sugar-producing canes but are subject to yellow-stripe disease."

56478. "*Cuba 450*. Seedling of *Demerara 419*, obtained in 1917-1918."

56479. "*Cuba 519*. Seedling of *Demerara 99* obtained in 1918-1919."

56480. "*Demerara 74*."

56481. "*Demerara 99*."

56482. "*Demerara 108*."

56483 to 56487.

From Loanda, Angola, Africa. Seeds presented by John Gossweiler. Received January 30, 1923.

56483. *ASPARAGUS AFRICANUS* Lam. *Convolvulariaceae*.

"This asparagus is a great delicacy and in my opinion better than any of the cultivated kinds." (*Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, in note under S. P. I. No. 32271.*)

A much-branched tall shrub native to many places in tropical and South Africa. The main branches are woody, and the leaves are spiny at the base. The 1-seeded berries are a sixth of an inch in diameter. (Adapted from *Thiselton-Dyer, Flora of Tropical Africa, vol. 7, p. 453.*)

56484. *MELINIS MINUTIFLORA* Beauv. *Poaceae*. **Molasses grass.**

"John Morley, of Lake Alfred, Fla., informed me that the molasses grass (*Melinis minutiflora*) was so successful on his place that he is going to get a large quantity of seeds for the planting of a very considerable area of it. He said the trouble which other people who had tried to use this grass experienced was, apparently, that they did not keep it grazed or cut closely enough. When permitted to grow unmolested it is likely to get rank." (*David Fairchild.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 54680.

56485. *MUSA GILLETII* Wildem. *Musaceae*. **Banana.**

A close relative of the Abyssinian banana (*Musa ensete*), native to the vicinity of Kisantu, Belgian Congo. It is a plant up to 6½ feet high, with the lower leaves reaching a length of 5 feet and the upper leaves becoming smaller and smaller until they merge into the floral bracts. The fruits, 2 inches long, are oblong and somewhat pear shaped, with a grayish surface irregularly marked because of the prominence of the seeds. The powdery pulp incloses shiny black seeds. (Adapted from *Revue des Cultures Coloniales, vol. 8, p. 102.*)

56486. *RUMEX ABYSSINICUS* Jacq. *Polygonaceae*.

"This *Rumex* has proved a most interesting plant, reaching a height of from 7 to 8 feet in one season and yielding, from the first of June all through the summer, an abundance of succulent green leaves which make an excellent substitute for spinach. It promises to be an excellent plant for our Southern States where summer green-leaved vegetables are very scarce." (*Peter Bisset.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 48023.

56487. *NATHUSIA ALATA* Hochst. *Oleaceae*. (*Schrebera alata* Hochst.)

A tree of moderate size, native to Abyssinia and parts of British East Africa, with large compound leaves having winged stems and small white flowers, tinged with lilac, borne in lax terminal clusters. The timber is very hard.

56488 to 56494.

From China. Seeds collected by J. F. Rock, Agricultural Explorer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Received February 9, 1923. Quoted notes by Mr. Rock.

56488. *CASTANEA* sp. *Fagaceae*. **Chestnut.**

"(No. 6436. October, 1922.) A tall tree 60 to 70 feet high, with a trunk 3 to 4 feet in diameter, found wild in a dry district of the Shiku Valley, Yangtze River, two days' travel west of Likiang."

56489. *CASTANOPSIS* sp. *Fagaceae*.

"(No. 6739. November 29, 1922.) A fine tree 60 to 80 feet tall, with a straight trunk 2 to 3 feet in diameter, found in an oak and pine forest in the Shweli Valley, between Chiang-tso and Linchiapu, on the Shweli-Salwin watershed, two days' travel north of Tengyueh at an altitude of about 7,000 feet. In this region at this time of the year there is frost every night.

"The slightly crenate leaves are oblong, silvery glaucous beneath and dark green above, and the small burs, with short thick spines, are in axillary spikes 4 or 5 inches long. The small nuts are at first brown, later becoming black, and they are sweet in taste."

56490. *CORYLUS* sp. *Betulaceae*. **Filbert.**

"(No. 6756. October, 1922.) A tree 50 feet high, with trunks 2 or 3 feet or more in diameter, found wild among limestone boulders and humus on the Likang Snow Range at an altitude of 10,000 feet. The nuts are large and edible."

56491. *PYRUS* sp. *Malaceae*. **Pear.**

"(November, 1922.) A fine tree with a dense round crown from the mountains near Puerhu. The white flowers are borne in great profusion and the fruits remain for a long time on the tree, becoming black and sweet. This is the species used in southern Yunnan as a stock for the cultivated pears. Obtained through Miss Clara Peterson, of the Puerhu Mission."

56492. *QUERCUS* sp. *Fagaceae*. **Oak.**

"(No. 6818. October, 1922.) A tall tree 50 to 60 feet in height, from the western slopes of the Likang Snow Range, on the road to the Yangtze River at an altitude of 11,000 feet. The leaves are lanceolate and entire and the acorns oblong."

56493. *ZIZIPHUS* sp. *Rhamnaceae*.

"(No. 6824. October, 1922.) A handsome spreading tree 30 feet high, with a round crown, found above Yangpi two days' travel from Talifu, at an altitude of 7,500 feet. The leaves are large, oval, and finely serrate, and the tree was loaded with olive-shaped drupes."

56494. (Undetermined.)

"(No. 6740. November 28, 1922.) *He ko* (black fruit tree). A tree 25 to 30 feet high with tall, spreading, drooping branches, which grows commonly on the trail to Chuchi, one day's journey northeast of Tengyueh. The tree was loaded with fleshy, bluish black 3-lobed capsular fruits; the one fertile lobe contained an oily, bitter seed. The fruits are gathered by the natives, dried, pressed, and heated, and an oil extracted which is used for lighting purposes."

56495 to 56498.

From Burringbar, New South Wales. Seeds presented by B. Harrison. Received February 7, 1923. Quoted notes by Mr. Harrison.