

similar to those of Sea Island cotton, from which it is supposed to be remotely descended; bloom large and yellow; bolls small, three-locked, sharp-pointed; lint white, fine, silky, remaining compact after the bolls open; fiber about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, very strong, with a well-developed twist, making it cling together like wool. The best Abbasi brings the highest price of any cotton produced in Egypt. The Abbasi requires a long season, and may succeed well in this country only in the southern part of the cotton belt, where it may be planted in March and harvested as late as November. A rather dry, sandy loam upland, retaining moisture below the surface, is best for its growth. Fertilize and prepare the land as for ordinary upland cotton. Plant in rows about 5 feet apart, leaving the plants 20 inches apart in the row; cultivate sufficiently to keep the surface continually mellow until the plants begin to bloom. Pick as soon as possible after the bolls are open, to prevent injury to the lint from exposure. The fiber should be ginned on a roller gin to obtain the best results and produce a fiber that will compare favorably with imported Egyptian cotton. Seed for planting should be selected from the early pickings, which usually produce the best fiber. Previous trials of this variety in this country indicate that the yield the first year is likely to be smaller than after the plants have become acclimated by growing here two or three generations." (*Dewey.*)

#### 4331. *Gossypium herbaceum*.

**Cotton.**

From Arkansas. Received February, 1900.

*Eldorado.* "A recently developed variety of much promise. Plant robust, erect, 46 feet high, with numerous spreading branches; bolls above medium size, very numerous, giving a large yield of seed cotton, maturing early; lint below the average percentage, because of the comparatively large seed, but with long staple, commanding one-quarter to 1 cent above the average market price. Its growth and production at the experiment station at Newport, Ark., during the last three years, indicate it to be the most profitable variety for that region. It is recommended for trial in sandy loam or alluvial soils. Plant in drills  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 feet apart, leaving plants 20 inches apart in the drill." (*Dewey.*)

#### 4332. *Lotus uliginosus*.

**Swamp Clover.**

From France. Received February 2, 1900.

This is a slender, branching clover with heads of rather large, yellow flowers, and slender, elongated pods. It is a native of Northern Europe, where it is esteemed for swampy meadow lands. It is now cultivated in Wisconsin and Minnesota on sour, peaty, or muck soils.

#### 4333. *Mucuna utilis*.

**Velvet bean.**

From Florida. Received January, 1900.

The velvet bean is apparently a native of India, and has been in cultivation as an ornamental garden plant for a good many years. It is believed to have been first introduced into this country by the Department of Agriculture for this purpose about 25 or 30 years ago. In favorable localities it often forms vines 30 to 50 feet in length. It is an excellent plant for quickly covering unsightly objects or arbors. The purple flowers are borne in clusters at intervals of 2 to 3 feet at the joints of the stem. These are followed by clusters of short, cylindrical pods, covered with the black, velvety down which has given the name to the plant. Each pod contains 3 to 6 large, rounded, brown and white mottled seeds. The pods are constricted laterally between the seeds, and are often more or less curved.

In Florida the seed is sown in drills 4 feet apart, from 2 to 4 seeds being planted in hills 2 feet apart in the row. The seed may be dropped in furrows when the ground is plowed and covered 2 to 3 inches deep. The crop should be cultivated several times. In orange groves and orchards the beans may be sown in drills 4 to 5 feet apart, and not less than 5 feet away from the trees, in order to keep the vines out of them. They make a better mulch crop in the orchard than cowpeas, because when the vines are cut down by a frost they form a tangled mass which retains the leaves and protects the soil from rain and sun. The leaves stay on the vines longer than on cowpeas. Farther north the seeds should be sown thicker, in drills 2 to 3 feet apart, or broadcast at the rate of 1 to 2 bushels per acre. The velvet bean makes its best growth on the lighter, sandy soils.