

Plant Immigrants

The office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the Bureau of Plant Industry publishes a list, under the above name, of recently imported plants, many of which are valuable to the gardener, from a decorative or economic standpoint. Through the courtesy of Mr. David Fairchild, who is in charge of this work, we are enabled to reprint notes on such plants as have particular interest to our readers. To all who can demonstrate their fitness to care for these recent introductions, the office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction will send what is available. Recipients of such material, which often requires considerable skill in handling, obligate themselves to report, when requested, as to what the result of their observations has been. It is essential that the numbers assigned by the Office should be firmly attached to the plant. By this the government gets data on hardiness of the new introductions, and the growers have an opportunity for the observation, first hand, of plants that may prove important. Applications for or letters about these plants should not be sent to the Editor but to Mr. David Fairchild, Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.



BERBERIS WILSONAE × *AGGREGATA*, 45-, 477. Hybrid barberry. From Bell, Maryland. Presented by Dr. W. Van Fleet, of this Bureau. "Hybrids of *Berberis wilsonae* and *B. aggregata* grown from seeds secured by pollination under glass in May, 1914. Both species are late bloomers when grown outside. *B. aggregata*, the pollen parent, is an upright grower with larger foliage than *B. wilsonae* and very showy flower clusters. The hybrids, however, are even more spreading in growth than *B. wilsonae* with very thickset foliage that turns deep purple at the approach of frost and holds on until midwinter. All the hybrids are quite uniform in appearance and are very handsome and hardy. Flowers and fruits have not yet appeared on these seedlings."

CORYLUS COLUMNNA, 45347. Turkish hazelnut. This is from Rochester, New York. Presented by Mr. John Dunbar, Assistant Superintendent of Parks, through Mr. C. A. Reed, of this Bureau. "The plants from which these nuts were

obtained came from L. Spath, Berlin, Germany, twenty-five years ago. They began to bear fruit about six years ago. The trees are now about twenty-five feet tall. It took these nuts two years to germinate." (Dunbar.) The tree is well worth growing for its stately form, so remarkable for a hazel, and for its curiously enveloped nuts. Native of southeastern Europe and Asia Minor; introduced into England about the middle of the seventeenth century.

LILIUM RUBELLUM, 45322. Lily. From Manchester, England. Presented by Mr. I. Henry Watson. This fine lily is nearest to *L. japonicum* (*L. Krameri*), from which it differs by its broad *speciosum*-like leaves and smaller pink flowers with obtuse segments. The build is similar to that of *L. japonicum* but more oval in shape; stem 1 to 2 feet high, smooth, green-spotted and tinged with purple, lower part bare of leaves; leaves 15 to 20, horizontal, 4 to 5 inches long, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch wide, flowers 1 to 8, 3 to 4 inches long and as wide, fragrant, of the same color variations as *L. japonicum*, anthers yellow or orange. June to early July. Native of Japan. Allied to *L. japonicum* but possesses a better constitution, being rather more robust and permanent.

CASTANEA CRENATA, 45334. Chestnut. From Bell, Maryland. Presented by Dr. W. Van Fleet, of this Bureau. Bell No. 1. Fourth generation by straight selection. Started by a variety cross between two early, prolific types of *C. crenata*. Very large nut, with good cooking qualities, but poor eating qualities when raw. The tree has a good habit, with thin, handsome branches. The trunk is clean and bright. Leaves very narrow. Dr. Van Fleet has about 40 trees of this selection.

CASTANEA CRENATA, 45337. Chestnut. From Bell, Maryland. Presented by Dr. W. Van Fleet, of this Bureau. Bell No. 4. Fourth generation by selection. The trees have very much the same habit as S. P. I. No. 45334, 45335 and 45336, and the nuts are about the same size—very large. The nuts have good eating qualities, and are better than those of the numbers referred to above. This number is eminently worthy of propagation and dissemination.

ACTINIDIA CHINENSIS, 45588. Yang tao. From Krling, China. Presented by Rev. John Berkin. The Yang tao, as this deciduous climber is known in Szechwan province, where it is native, has attracted considerable attention from travelers and missionaries in China, because of the high quality of its fruits, and the ornamental value of the plant. Single plants often grow 30 feet in length so that the vine will cover large areas of trellis. The leaves have a plush-like texture, and an unusual dark-green color. The young shoots are bright pink and villous-pubescent. The size and regular spacing of the leaves make this climber valuable where large areas of foliage are desired. The flowers are buff-yellow to white, fragrant, and of large size, being from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The abundance of these flowers adds greatly to the beauty of this plant, and enhances its value as an ornamental. The following account of the fruit was written by Mr. Wilson while in China. "Fruits abundantly produced, ovoid to globose, 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches across; epicarp membranous, russet-brown, more or less clothed with villous hairs. Flesh green, of most excellent flavor, to my palate akin to that of the gooseberry, but tempered with a flavor peculiarly its own. The fruit is excellent when fresh, and also makes very fine jam and sauce. A number of the Yang tao fruits which were produced by vines growing in California were shipped to Washington and have been eaten by a number of people of discriminating taste, and the universal opinion appears to be that we have in this Chinese fruit a distinct new possibility for home gardens in Southern regions. What American horticulturists will do with it remains to be seen. It is now essentially a wild fruit, for the Chinese have done no more with it than Americans have with their largest wild fruit, the papaw (*Asimina triloba*). While this plant is not hardy in regions of severe winters, the rapid growth in the spring will make it a valuable ornamental, even in those regions where it is killed to the ground each winter."

LILIUM PHILIPPINENSE, 45570. Benguet lily. From Manila, P. I. Presented by Mr. Adn. Hernandez, Director, Bureau of

Agriculture. "This new white trumpet lily seems destined to become of very great value to both private and commercial growers. The short time necessary to flower it after potting surprises all who are growing it for the first time. We found last year that it was all the introducers claimed for it, and from a batch of small bulbs potted September 8 we cut flowers December 3 of this year. These bulbs were grown in a cold-frame for nearly half that period or they would have flowered earlier. The long, pure white, sweet-scented flowers arrange beautifully in vases. The stems are sufficiently strong, without being too rigid, as is the case with other forcing liliiums, and the foliage is so much more graceful than that of other lilies that any flower lover would not hesitate a moment which variety to select when both were purchasable. For floral designs this lily is superior to any other white variety and we fully expect it will in a few years be as much a market necessity as *Harrisii* and *longiflorum* now are. Six or seven bulbs may be grown in a 6-inch pot or pan and a dozen or more in an 8-inch pan for good effect."

PTEROCARYA STENOPTERA, 45587. From China. Collected by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer for this Department. "(No. 2447a. Kingmen, Hupeh, China. September 5, 1917.) An ornamental tree belonging to the walnut family, growing to a large size. The foliage is pinnated and of fresh green color. In early spring, before the leaves are out, the trees are loaded with long greenish brown, staminate catkins, which give them a festive appearance; these are followed by racemes of small winged fruits which persist on the trees until September. The young foliage is covered with small yellow-brown glands and when rubbed smells like sour apples. The trees love moist situations, especially near running water and in porous soil; however, they also thrive on dry fields, but do not grow so fast nor so large as when near water. It is one of the best flowering trees in the Foreign concessions at Hankow and Shanghai and is called by foreigners the 'Chinese ash' on account of its resemblance to a *Fraxinus*. Chinese name Maliu shu, meaning 'Fiber willow tree,' often abbreviated to

liu shu. This is a very promising shade tree for streets, parks and gardens in those sections of the United States where the summers are moist and warm and the winters but moderately cold. It does well where rice and cotton mature fully, and where the large-leaved privet (*Ligustrum lucidum* Ait.) and the tea-olive (*Osmanthus fragrans* Lour.) remain out-of-doors the year round." (Meyer.)



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