INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEED SHIPMENT

The only generally satisfactory means of plant introduction from abroad are through shipment of seed or cuttings. Success with small, rooted plants is possible only through special growing, packing and shipment techniques and detailed beforehand arrangements; even then, successful introduction is infrequent.

Short pieces of current-year growth providing four- to eight-inch cuttings may be shipped with reasonable expectations of survival, if properly packed and airmailed directly to destination. The best method of packaging cuttings for shipment is as follows: Unless leaves are quite small, reduce leaf surface by removing the terminal half of each leaf; the basal stem of each cutting should them be wrapped with slightly-dampened paper, cotton or other mildly absorbent material; depending upon size and leafiness, from one to four of these cuttings can then be placed in a polyethylene-plastic bag, which has been first dampened inside but contains no or very little free water; the plastic bag must then be flattened reasonably and the air exhausted, and then the open-end of the bag is folded over and sealed with tape; this semi-flattened, sealed package is then placed between two thin sheets of stiff paper or very light cardboard and fastened within to assist in flattening the package; this is then placed in a full-size (c. 9½" long) correspondence envelope addressed to Dr. C. R. Parks, P. O. Box 688, Arcadia, California, and airmailed; it is best to place the return address and identification of contents only within the envelope.

When introducing species materials - in contradistinction from horticultural cultivars - and seed are or will become available, it is always best to use seed for this purpose. Seed of some of the gordonieceous genera do not remain viable for extended periods following harvest; this is particularly true of Camellia seed.

Unless seed are stored at 40°F., viability decreases rapidly and germination falls off significantly within a period of two to four weeks. Proper packaging prevents this loss of viability during shipment time. It is best to secure fresh seed, or even germinating seed; these are placed in a polyethylene-plastic bag, which has been dampened inside or contains a small wad of slightly-moistened absorbent material; the bag is then exhausted of air, sealed and mailed as noted above for cuttings.

The above precautions for successful seed introduction are particularly pointed to Camellia, and probably Pyrenaria. Seed of Gordonia, Hartia, Laplacea, Schima and Tutcheria are less subject to loss of viability and successfully germinate without special storage after several-week periods. Germination, however, even in these genera is improved when seed are fresh and shipped in polyethylene-plastic bags to prevent excessive moisture loss.

Parks, Clifford R. and Griffiths, Austin. 1964. "Instructions for seed shipment." *LASCA miscellanea* 7,

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