

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PLANT CRIMINALS

Most foreign restrictions on the entry of plants from the United States are biologically sound and clearly stated. Yet there are quite a few bizarre conditions that must be met if you want to ship plants abroad. Some of these unusual requirements are highlighted by Ralph W. Sherman of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. He describes the little-publicized activities of the Export Certification Section of the Bureau's Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines, which expedites the movement of our plants to foreign destinations by performing the inspections and treatments necessary to conform to plant sanitation requirements of the receiving country.

On the odd side, for example, Burma prohibits the entry of Mexican jumping beans. As Sherman comments: "Whether the cozy bean moth larvae jitterbugging in these seedpods are too active for the slow rhythmmed Burmese or whether the natives lose too heavily in the games of chance that feature these acrobatic oddities isn't clear. But you can't send them." In still another tenor, plant import regulations of the U. S. S. R. brusquely outline their right to "embargo, return or destroy; decide its status regardless of statement in a foreign certificate." Chinese regulations are the simplest, while Mozambique, on the southeastern coast of Africa has an elaborate set of requirements. Some fancy "gobbledegook" appearing in a South American plant order could be quoted to show that we have no monopoly on this accomplishment.

Peru still prohibits the importation of Florida fruits and vegetables to keep out the Mediterranean fruitfly, while the U. S. S. R. embargoes citrus plantings from Louisiana because of citrus canker. The catch is that the 1929-30 campaign in Florida wiped out the Mediterranean fruitfly infestation there, and an intensive campaign, from 1914 to 1927, licked the citrus canker in the Gulf Region. Judging from potato embargoes, America's insect most feared abroad is our Colorado potato beetle. Other existing foreign embargoes are such that it is now illegal to ship hosts of the Japanese beetle or European corn borer back to their ancestral homes! — USDA