A NOTE ON LIGUSTRUM IBOLIUM

In Inventory #46, 1916, of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry, there is described the origin of a hybrid privet, *Ligustrum ovalifolium* × *L. obtusifolium regelianum*, now known as *L. ibolium* Coe, the Ibolium privet. At that time, cuttings of several selections from the cross were presented by the Elm City Nursery Company, New Haven, Connecticut, accompanied by the description summarized here. In the fall of 1900, a plant of *L. ovalifolium* growing in their nursery among several plants of *L. obtusifolium regelianum* bore an especially heavy crop of fruit. Since fruiting of the California privet was uncommon in the locality, the inference was that a natural cross had occurred. When the seedlings were raised, they showed every indication of hybridity, varying from upright and vigorous to prostrate and dwarf, from deciduous to more or less evergreen and producing flowers from terminal or lateral branches.

The upright selection of *L. ibolium* is well known in the nursery trade, valued for its handsome habit similar to the California privet, but approaching the less attractive *L. obtusifolium* in hardiness. In current descriptions of *L. ibolium*, one finds no mention of the existence of dwarf forms, but two of the dwarf selections from the original introduction are still being grown at the U.S. Plant Introduction Garden, Glenn Dale, Maryland. The plants are from 1928 propagations and have attained scarcely 18 inches in height, with dense, glossy, somewhat persistent foliage that remains reddish-green at temperatures down to 0° F., and has wavy leaf margins. The two selections differ mainly from each other in the size of the leaves and one plant is more prostrate than the other. Eventually one will be eliminated but not until the relative hardiness and adaptability factors have been studied. The plants have now been moved to a test nursery where they show every indication of becoming desirable additions to the rather limited group of hardy, dwarf plants.

As there is always a need for plants that will make good low hedges or compact borders, a privet with such a habit and, in addition, the hardiness attributed to *L. ibolium* should arouse considerable interest among nurserymen. At the present time, the selections are carried under a garden number until they can be propagated for distribution and wider testing.

**John L. Creech**
Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction
Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering
Beltsville, Maryland

[48]