CROP PLANTS UNDER CULTIVATION IN JAPAN

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How many crop plants are cultivated throughout the world? This is an interesting question both from the botanical and the agronomic standpoint. So far, some authors, such as Blomeyer and Sturtevant, have attacked this problem, but with little success. The writer has been engaged in a similar study since 1928. First of all, though, it seemed desirable to list the kinds of crop plants in Japan, not to say of the world. Thus far, no attempt had been made in this direction, at least no reports thereon have been issued. The studies reported here were begun in the summer of 1928 and were briefly reported upon in 1929 and again in 1930 in Agriculture and Horticulture (Japanese). The present paper summarizes the result of investigation thus far obtained, with some brief modifications.

As a preliminary step in this study a list of Japanese crop plants was prepared based essentially on the writer's experience, but with more or less reference to publications on plant production and with the kind help of friends and colleagues. The list thus prepared was sent to the prefectural agricultural experiment stations throughout Japan asking for information on crop plants under cultivation in their respective region. For particular plants, inquiry was also made to the livestock experiment stations, the hygienic laboratories, etc. Replies were received from all except a few, and the information thus secured has afforded very useful material for the investigation. Some crop plants not thus far noted in agricultural literature have been identified. The answers were compared carefully with the original list, and after much trouble, Japanese, English, scientific, and family names have been identified for all the plants.

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