

Bearing Crops when Six Months Old



**Burbank
Pineapple Quince Seedlings**



**Burbank
Chestnut Seedling**

ONE OF the principal factors in Luther Burbank's success as a creator of new and better forms of plant life has been his ability to hurry Nature and to make her produce in a single season the results which she would prefer to take her own convenient time—two years, seven years, ten years—to produce.

In creating new forms of plant life, large quantity production and speed are both essential.

The plant breeder knows, as a certainty, that the offspring of two different parents—a cross between them—will reproduce a combination of the characteristics of those parents.

But just as one human child of a brunette father and a blond mother may have its mother's blue eyes and its father's dark hair; and just as the next child of the same parents may resemble its father in features and its mother in temperament; and so on endlessly—just so in

mating plants it is impossible to predict just what combination of the parent characteristics will be reproduced.

This much, however, the plant breeder can do to produce a definite result:

He can make a thousand, ten thousand, or a hundred thousand crosses; and he can be sure that while no two will be precisely alike, yet practically every characteristic of the two parents will be reproduced, in combination; and that from so great a number from which to select, he can find the offspring which represents all of the good qualities desired—with none, or practically none, of the faults.

Having produced an infinity of varieties from which to select, the plant breeder must wait, if the result desired is a flower, until the cross breeds have bloomed; or, if a fruit or a nut, until the cross breeds have borne.

Although there are certain definite known rules by which most of the undesirable can be weeded out from the baby

seedlings soon after they show their heads above the ground, yet the final flower or fruit or nut is the supreme test—the only true proof of which of the new varieties is worthy to be saved and perpetuated.

By means, which there is not room to describe here, but which are to be fully explained in the free monographs issued by The Luther Burbank Society, Luther Burbank has been able to shorten Nature's processes so that she gives him an almost immediate answer as to the success of his experiments.

The illustrations above are typical of Luther Burbank's methods—quince seedlings so heavily loaded with fruit that they can hardly stand—a chestnut seedling six months old bearing a cluster of perfect nuts—all done for the purpose of proving some experiment—of showing which one or two, out of possibly ten thousand crosses, is worthy of preservation and propagation.