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Stock No.	Diam.	Mirror Thickness	Price
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70,006Q	10"	1 3/4"	30.75 f.o.b.
70,007Q	12 1/2"	2 1/8"	59.95 Barrington

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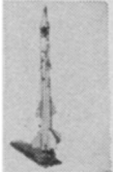
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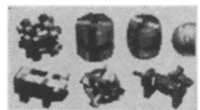
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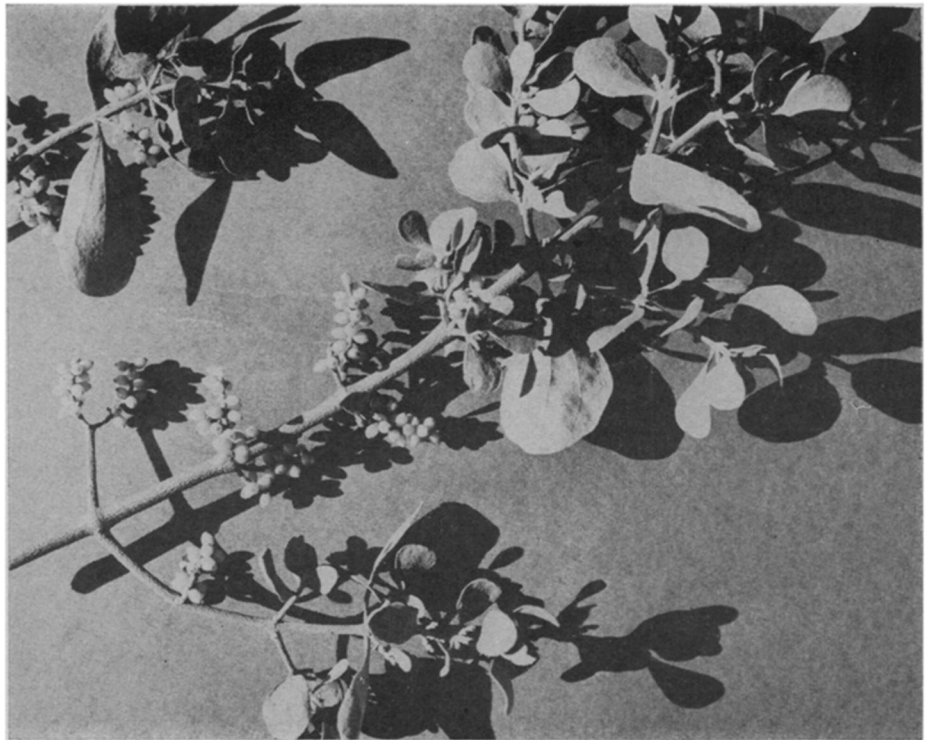
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Nature Note



Agriculture

Mistletoe

The waxen berries of the evergreen mistletoe appear gleaming white in the middle of dark winter, at a time when most other plants seem dead and life is at its lowest ebb.

Once gathered as a symbol of life and purity by the Druids of ancient Gaul and southern Britain, the mistletoe figured in legends of Germany and Scandinavia, and today is hung at Christmas as a promise of life and fertility.

The plant belongs to the mistletoe family, Loranthaceae, which contains about 500 species, growing mostly in tropical and subtropical regions throughout the world. The traditional European variety, *Viscum labum*, grows abundantly in south England. The American variety, *Phoradendron flavescens*, is found from Florida to New Jersey and parts west.

It is an evergreen many-branched bush, about two to three feet long, growing in bunches from trees such as apple, ash, maple and willow—but seldom in oak trees, contrary to popular belief.

Mistletoe is partly parasitic, which means it derives part of its nourishment from its host plant. The rest of its food

is manufactured from the chlorophyll of its greenish yellow, leathery leaves. Inconspicuous flowers with no petals grow in bunches at the ends and at the divisions of the branches. The semi-transparent berries, about the size of currants, ripen in December and are eaten by birds which may spread the plant by wiping the sticky glutinous seeds upon the branches of trees. The seeds then extend delicate but persistent filaments into the living tissues of its host, living off this tree.

For years, people regarded the waxen berry as a charm against epilepsy, nightmares and witchcraft. It has been considered a good luck piece in many parts of the world, worn in the lapel or around the neck to keep diseases away, placed under pillows to induce dreams of omen, laid upon the threshold to prevent nightmares, carried by women to cure barrenness, and placed in fields to stimulate crop fertility. Mistletoe was once forbidden in Christian churches because it was thought tainted with heathenism. But now it is regarded as symbol of life, along with other winter greens—and is brought into households at Christmas time to perpetuate the pleasant custom of kissing.