

*SILKWORM CULTURE.*

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Circular No. 488 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has the following to say in connection with the culture of the silkworm:

“The Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., is investigating the possibilities of silkworm culture in the United States. It is hoped that it may in time be developed to such an extent as to prove of benefit to those members of families whose time is not altogether occupied in other ways, and also to other persons in a small way as a side issue. To persons wishing to experiment, and who can furnish proper food for the worms, the Department is distributing free of charge a small quantity of silkworm eggs and also a manual of instructions. The proper food for silkworms consists of leaves from the different varieties of white mulberry tree and the Osage orange. The paper mulberry (with fuzzy leaves) is not suitable, nor is the common red mulberry. As the season is now open, applications for the eggs should be made at once, and must be accompanied by a statement as to the number and kind of mulberry trees or the amount of Osage orange which the applicant possesses; otherwise the eggs will not be sent. If the variety of the mulberry is not known to the applicant, a sample of large leaves should be sent to the Department. The Department of Agriculture buys the cocoons which the worms spin, paying for them (after they have been dried) 75 cents to \$1 a pound according to their quality. The work will prove an interesting pastime for women and children who can devote to it odd minutes during the day.”

We have no doubt that the Director of the U. S. Experiment Station at Honolulu will gladly furnish applicants with further information on this subject.