

6 inches thick at the base. The tree shows every indication of being a strong, vigorous grower, and its branches are stout and shapely and not so brittle as in many weak-growing varieties. The bud wood furnished by the tree is quite satisfactory; the growths are of suitable length, and the eyes are strong and well developed, showing no tendency to drop at an early date, as they do in some varieties.

"During the period in which this tree was under observation it showed a peculiarity in flowering which was not noticed elsewhere in Guatemala. In November, 1916, flowers were produced and a few fruits set. Since a heavy crop was produced in 1916, it was thought that the fruits set from the November bloom were all that would be developed during 1917, but in January the tree flowered again and set a very heavy crop of fruit.

"The crop produced in 1916 amounted to over 100 fruits, which can be regarded a heavy crop when the size of the fruits and the small size of the tree are considered. The crop for 1917 promises to be considerably larger. In 1916 the fruits were practically all picked in November, at which time they were considered by the owner to be mature.

"The fruit is broadly oval, quite uniform in shape, with a smooth green surface when ripe. The weight varies from 14 to 20 ounces. The skin is about as thick as in the average variety of the Guatemalan race, which is one-sixteenth of an inch or slightly more. The flesh is free from fiber, clear, of good texture, and pleasant flavor. Specimens sampled in November, 1916, were not as rich as would be desired, but it may reasonably be assumed that they would have been much better if they had been left on the tree two or three months longer. Perfectly ripened specimens of this variety have not been tested; hence, the quality of this fruit when at its best must remain somewhat in doubt until it comes into bearing in the United States. The seed is comparatively small and always tight in its cavity.

"Form uniformly oval; size above medium to large, weight 14 to 18 ounces, at the time up to 20 ounces, length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, greatest breadth $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; base rounded, with the stem inserted obliquely without depression; stem stout, about 6 inches long; apex rounded, with the stigmatic point to one side and slightly elevated; surface nearly smooth, slightly undulating and somewhat obscurely ribbed, deep green in color, almost glossy, with a few scattering large yellowish green dots; skin thick, slightly over one-sixteenth of an inch at base, nearly one-eighth of an inch at apex, coarsely granular, brittle; flesh cream color, pale green near the skin, of fairly rich flavor, and free from fiber or discoloration; quality very good; seed rather small in comparison to the size of the fruit, almost spherical, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces in weight, with both seed coats adhering closely to the nearly smooth cotyledons, tight in the seed cavity." (*Popenoe*.)

For an illustration of this avocado, see Plate VI.

43477. CHAYOTA EDULIS Jacq. Cucurbitaceæ. Chayote.
(*Sechium edule* Swartz.)

From Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Received through Mr. Carl M. J. von Zielinski, American vice consul in charge, October 19, 1916.

"Information from reliable sources states that the cultivation of this plant is very simple. It should be planted in a humid soil, preferably where there is plenty of shade. Its growth is said to be wonderful, and after 90 days it has been known to produce over 100 fruits. There are two kinds of *tallote* found in this country, but the difference is said to be only in the color of the skin, which may be either white or green. The fruit is very much liked by the