

45020 to 45022—Continued.

slightly hardy and may be found sufficiently so to be grown outdoors in southern California and Florida.

"The palm grows to a height of 15 to 25 feet, more commonly the former than the latter. The trunk is slender, erect, and about 2 inches thick. The leaves are 3 to 6 feet long, with 18 to 24 pairs of pinnæ subopposite toward the base of the rachis, often becoming alternate farther up. The lowermost pinnæ are narrow and not over 8 or 10 inches long; farther up they become 18 or 20 inches long and nearly 2 inches wide. In general, the foliage of this palm suggests that of the well-known *Areca lutescens* (properly *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*) of northern conservatories. It is graceful, of rich green color, and in every way pleasing.

"The inflorescences appear from October to May, a few coming at other seasons of the year. They appear along the trunk a short distance beneath the lowermost leaves. Before the spathes burst and the flowers appear, these buds, which are 8 to 12 inches in length, are cut for use. The part which is eaten is the tender, white, much-branched inflorescence within the spathe. Its preparation for the table consists in dipping it in a batter made of eggs and then frying it; in enveloping it in an omelet; in boiling it and serving it as a vegetable; or in mixing it with other vegetables to form a salad. When very young and tender its flavor is most agreeable. When the buds are nearly ready to burst, the inflorescence frequently has a bitter taste, which is objectionable to some people, though much liked by others.

"This palm grows on a variety of soils, seeming to do well on clay and also on black sandy loam. It is frequently planted in gardens among coffee bushes, and in some sections it is planted beneath the shade of large trees. It may be necessary to supply shade for the plant in regions such as southern California. If so, this can be easily done by means of a lath or slat house.

"As an article of food the pacaya is much used in Guatemala and by local standards commands a good price, single inflorescences selling commonly at five or six for a peso (2½ cents) in the regions where they are grown. The leaves are widely used for decorative purposes, being cut to adorn houses during the many fiestas which take place in this country."

45023. SOLANUM TUBEROSUM L. Solanaceæ.**Potato.**

From Honolulu, Hawaii. Tubers presented by Mr. J. M. Westgate, agronomist in charge, Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station. Received July 24, 1917.

Portuguese Red. These were submitted by Mr. J. B. Thompson, superintendent of the Glenwood Experiment Station, Hawaii. They are important because they are remarkably immune to the diseases (late-blight, wilt, etc.) which affect the ordinary potato." (*Westgate.*)

45024. RIBES SPECIOSUM Pursh. Grossulariaceæ.**Gooseberry.**

From Los Angeles, Calif. Presented by Mr. P. D. Barnhart. Numbered August 2, 1917.

"The books say that this is evergreen, but this is not true, for no matter how much water may be applied to it during the rainless season, it sheds its leaves and becomes dormant. As soon as the rains set in it springs into life, the rich, dark-green foliage appearing as though it were varnished. The new growth is bright red, thickly beset with spines of the same color. The brilliant