

**50583. COLOCASIA ESCULENTA (L.) Schott. Araceæ. Dasheen.**

From Canton, Kwangtung, China. Tubers presented by G. Weidman Groff, Canton Christian College. Received June 28, 1920.

"*Hung nga u.* A popular variety widely planted in Kwantung. Not so long in form as the *Pan long u.*, which it resembles except for the red coloring of the sprout which gives it its name of 'redbud.' The flesh is white but spotted with yellow; very mealy and good. A medium early variety and heavy yielder. Planted in February or March and harvested about September. It is planted widely and brings a high price on the markets." (Groff.)

**50584 to 50586.**

From San Jose, Costa Rica. Collected by Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer of the United States Department of Agriculture. Received June 18, 1920. Quoted notes by Mr. Popenoe.

**50584. PERSEA AMERICANA Mill. Lauraceæ. Avocado.**  
(*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

"(No. 386. May 30, 1920.) Budwood of avocado No. 44, from the grounds of Chaille and Assmann, in San Vicente, a suburb of San Jose. This variety is recommended by Don Otón Jimenez as the best with which he is familiar. It is of the West Indian race and is said to have been grown from a seed brought from Santa Clara, on the Atlantic side of Costa Rica. The tree is probably 30 or 40 years old at least and is 40 feet high, broad, and round topped, with a well-formed crown and a shapely trunk branching 8 to 10 feet above the ground. The fruit, which is said to ripen in September and October, is green, obovoid in form, and probably a pound in weight at maturity. I have not seen the mature fruit, hence can not describe its quality nor the size of the seed.

"It is thought that some of the West Indian varieties of Costa Rica, which have been grown in the highlands at altitudes of 4,000 to 6,000 feet, may ripen their fruits at a time of the year which will make them valuable in California or Florida, more probably the latter. The variety under consideration comes from an altitude of approximately 4,000 feet. It can not be expected that it will prove to be much hardier than the West Indian sorts now grown in Florida."

**50585. PERSEA AMERICANA Mill. Lauraceæ.**  
(*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

"(No. 387. May 30, 1920.) Budwood of the *aguacate de anís*, *aguacate de mono*, or *aguacate de manzana* (anise-flavored avocado, monkey's avocado, or apple avocado). A wild avocado which I have seen only in the vicinity of La Palma and San Isidro, about 15 miles from San Jose, but which is reported also from Turrialba. The character of the tree and fruit are such as to suggest that this species, which is certainly indigenous in the mountains of central Costa Rica, is the wild prototype of the cultivated Guatemalan race, if not of the West Indian as well (since it is believed that both races are derived from a single species). The fruiting habit of the tree suggests the Guatemalan race more than the West Indian, as also the hard, granular shell and the general character of the fruit. The only point in which the plant differs noticeably from the cultivated Guatemalan avocado is in the aniselike odor and flavor of the bark, leaves, and fruit. The wild tree, which has been studied by Don Otón Jimenez and myself, has been observed up to the present only at elevations between 4,500 and 5,000 feet. It is not found in the forest, but, like several other species of *Persea* and allied genera which occur in Costa Rica, it frequents open places close to small streams and brooks or is found associated with a few other trees along the margins of such watercourses. The region in which it grows is one of abundant rainfall with cool but never cold weather, and the soil is a substantial clay loam. The trees we have seen have not been in any case more than 40 feet high, and all were of erect,