

54973. HYLOCEREUS POLYRHIZUS (Weber) Britton and Rose. Cactaceæ.

From Guayaquil, Ecuador. Seeds presented by Dr. Frederic W. Goding, American consul general, Guayaquil. Received June 2, 1922.

"A triangular-stemmed cactus which is very abundant in the region about Guayaquil, where it may be seen climbing the trunks of various trees by means of aerial roots. It is also found in sandy places in the neighborhood of Riobamba, where it does not climb trees. The local name of this cactus is 'pitajaya.' The roundish fruits are 5 to 7 inches long, with a thin, strawberry-red skin inclosing a mass of reddish pulp containing many small black seeds. This pulp is of most delicious flavor, and from it is made a cooling drink, called locally 'refresco,' which is superior to any other I have ever tasted." (*Goding.*)

54974. VICIA FABA L. Fabaceæ. Broad bean.

From Granada, Spain. Seeds purchased from Don Juan Leyva, Granada, by Miss Ola Powell, States Relations Service, through Gaston Smith, American consul, Malaga, Spain. Received April 17, 1922.

"*Habas granadina.* A large, tender bean." (*Powell.*)

Introduced for experiments in the use of broad beans as forage.

54975. DIOSCOREA ESCULENTA (LOUR.) Burkill. Dioscoreaceæ. Lesser yam.

From Mayaguez, Porto Rico. Tubers presented by T. B. McClelland, horticulturist, Porto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station. Received May 4, 1922.

Potato. A small-tubered variety from Africa, resembling the Irish potato and known in Porto Rico as the *Potato* yam. In some places it is considered among the best for home planting, and in a few city markets it brings good prices.

The vines of this variety are slender and round stemmed, with short, strong, sharp spines; there are two longer spines at the base of each leaf petiole. The leaves appear alternately. The edible tubers develop near the crown of the plant much the same as sweet potatoes. They are oval and vary up to 8 inches in length and 2½ inches in diameter. As they are small and not easily injured, these roots can usually be kept longer after being harvested than the large-rooted kinds. They are smooth, dark grayish brown, and at a distance of a few feet are likely to be mistaken for Irish potatoes. The skin is very thin and tough and may, after being broken, be pulled off in strips resembling thin pieces of cherry bark. The interior of the tuber is white, brittle, and firm and practically free from fiber when not allowed to remain too long in the soil; it is over 23 per cent starch. However, tubers which are left in the soil until late in the winter sometimes have a few long and rather strong, longitudinal fibers. When cooked the tubers are fine-grained, tender, and sweeter in flavor than most other varieties.

Since the small yams develop in the surface soil and are not hindered by a compact subsoil, the *Potato* variety thrives best in rich soil and better than most other varieties in clays. It yields poorly in sandy soil and in compact soils produces angular or flattened tubers.

From experiments made in planting at different distances apart it is believed that 3 by 3 feet will give the best results. The variety grows well on ridges or on level land where the drainage is good and the soil is loosened to a good depth. (Adapted from C. F. Kinman in *Bulletin* 27, *Porto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station*, p. 13.)

54976. FRAGARIA sp. Rosaceæ. Strawberry.

From Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. Plants presented by Luis Kan, through Arthur Stockdale, Mexico City. Received May 8, 1922.

"Irapuato is famous throughout Mexico for its strawberries, which supply the markets of Mexico City and many other towns of the highlands. Terry's 'Mexico' says: 'The rich soil of the enviroing country is favorable to the