

*Arracacia xanthorrhiza* Bancroft. (Aplaceae.) 42137. *Apios* tubers received from Kingston, Jamaica. Presented by Mr. William Harris, Superintendent Hope Gardens. "This uncommon vegetable is a native of the Andes in South America where it is cultivated between 5,000 and 7,000 feet altitude. It is a low parsnip-like plant, producing large edible starchy, carrot-shaped roots, the flavor of which has been compared to a combination of parsnip and potato. The plant will thrive in any good soil, and is adapted only to the higher elevations, say from 4,500 to 6,000 feet. It is commonly cultivated as a vegetable at Bogota in Colombia up to 8,000 feet elevation." (H. F. Macmillan, Handbook of Tropical Gardening, 2nd Edition, p. 234, 1914.) Requires 12 to 16 months without frost for development of its fleshy roots. See Plant Immigrants No. 75 for Plate and description p. 548.

*Bambos guadua* Humb. & Bonpl. (Poaceae.) 42066. Seeds from Puerto Bertoni, Paraguay. Presented by Dr. Moises S. Bertoni. "In connection with Guaduas I must notice the guadua itself, the most indispensable plant of all New Granada after the plantain, the cane and maize. It might be called the lumber-tree, for it supplies all our fencing except walls of brick, rammed earth, and rarely of stone, and also the wood-work of most houses and whatever is made of boards at the North. It is an enormous grass, like the bamboo of the Eastern tropics, growing, however, to a less height, only 30 or 40 feet. The slender foliage is of inconceivable beauty, comparing with that of other trees as ostrich feathers do with goose-quills. The stem is about 6 inches in diameter with joints about 20 inches apart. The thickness of the wood is nearly an inch. When poles or slats are wanted, the stem is split into four, six or eight parts. For boards for the top of a coarse table, bench, or bedstead, it is opened and flattened out, splitting almost at every inch of width, but not coming entirely apart. For a dish, candle-case, grease-pot, or extemporaneous vessel for carrying drink to a company of hunters or laborers, it is cut off just below the partitions. Such a receptacle is called a tarro. Tarros of double capacity are made for bringing the domestic supply of water for a family, by taking a piece two joints long, with a septum at each end and one in the middle. A hole is made in the upper and middle septa, and if they be used for carrying molasses, a bung can be put in, or an orange used for a stopper. Bottles of a single joint are used for holding castor oil, ect. In short, the uses of the guadua are innumerable. The guadua starts from the ground with the full diameter, or nearly so, but the joints are at first very short. Some