

Personally, I found the fruit, when eaten with powdered sugar, a good dish, though the Persians do not eat it." (Merrill.)

*Holeus sorghum* (Poaceae), 45348. **Kafir corn.** From Johannesburg, South Africa. Presented by Mr. J. Burtt-Davy, Botanist, Agricultural Supply Association. "Kafir corn grown by natives in the Vereeniging District of the Transvaal and claimed by them to be earlier in maturing than any other sorts grown in the neighborhood. This strain may prove of immense value in areas having a short growing season. The rainfall at Vereeniging averages about 27 inches and comes almost entirely in the summer." (Burtt-Davy.)

*Persea americana* (Lauraceae), 45505. **Avocado.** From Guatemala. Collected by Mr. Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer for this Department. "(No. 195. Avocado No. 32. **Akbal.** Guatemala, Guatemala. November 6, 1917.) This is a variety noteworthy for earliness, and it has been included in the set primarily for this characteristic. It is, however, of very good quality and has no visible defects except a slightly undesirable shape. Judging by its behavior in Guatemala, it should be the earliest variety in the collection, but it is not safe to depend upon its retaining this characteristic in the United States, since slight local variations in soil or climate sometimes affect the period of ripening very noticeably, and its earliness in Guatemala may not be altogether an inherent characteristic. This is rather a warm region, hence there is nothing to indicate that the variety will be unusually hardy. The crop harvested in the fall of 1917 was a good one. According to the owner, it was 600 fruits, but judging from its appearance while still on the tree it must have been considerably more than that. The bearing habits of the tree were only under observation for one season, but they give promise of being very satisfactory. The flowering season is in November and December, and the fruit ripens from the following August to November. It is fully ripe and in perfect condition for picking by the middle of October, whereas the average variety of the same region is not mature until January at the earliest. In two characteristics this variety does not seem to agree with the Guatemalan race. It has a very thin skin and the seed coats do not adhere closely to the cotyledons. A few other varieties showing these same