

These are eaten raw, as well as cooked, and are also frozen and dried. Raw *ocas*, when first dug, have a distinctly acid taste, like sheep sorrel, but this is lost after the tubers have been exposed to the sun. The plant attains a height of a foot or more and has the appearance of a large sheep sorrel. The flowers are yellow and the leaflets are folded at night or in wet weather, the same as in the sheep sorrel. The varieties are numerous, though much fewer than in the case of the potato. The tubers are very tender, rather crisp and juicy. In form some are nearly cylindrical, while others are slender at the base and strongly thickened at the end. The colors vary from white or light pink through darker pinks or yellows to deep purplish red. In addition to the pleasing coloration, the surface of the tubers is smooth and clear, so that the general appearance is very attractive. If the taste should prove acceptable *ocas* might become very popular for salads and pickles. The nature and habits of the plant indicate that it may be adapted to acid soil, which would be a distinct advantage in some parts of the United States. (Adapted from notes under S. P. I. No. 41168, by Mr. O. F. Cook.)

Pentstemon palmeri (Scrophulariaceae), 46595. **Beardtongue.** Plants grown at the Plant Introduction Field Station, Chico, California. "*Pentstemon palmeri*, from the western and southern slopes of the San Francisco Mountains of Arizona, is one of our best and most promising native species of this useful genus of ornamental plants. It withstands droughty conditions well and responds remarkably to good treatment. In nature the spikes stand 4 to 6 feet high and the plant is reduced to little more than a rosette of basal leaves at the close of the long dry, late summer and autumn. Under conditions at Chico, California, the flowering stems may stand 6 to 7 feet high and the plants go into winter with a vegetative growth of 18 inches or more. Its abundant glaucous green foliage, long spike (2 to 3 ft.) of large pink flowers opening progressively from below, together with its very robust habit, make it a desirable acquisition to our long list of pentstemons. It has good seed habits and if started early in flats and transplanted into the open in early spring it will blossom sparingly the same year." (Griffiths.)