

eaten. (5) The dried fermented roots are pounded in a mortar and sifted to a white flour which is boiled to form a starchy paste. This doughy mass, wrapped in banana leaf, constitutes one of the principal foods of the natives. The flour is wrapped in banana-leaf containers weighing from 15 to 25 kilograms each. I have not found any of the bitter cassava; all plants which I have tasted are sweet. The fully matured crop forms an open thicket 6 to 10 feet high. At Nyanza, a leaf spot seemed to be the only disease, and this, although abundant, caused very little damage." (Shantz.)

Persea americana (Lauraceae), 50680. **Avocado.** From San Jose, Costa Rica. Cuttings collected by Mr. Wilson Popenoe, agricultural explorer. "(No.395.) Avocado No. 42, from the residence of Margarita Munoz. This avocado was called to my attention by Don Anastasia Alfaro, director of the National Museum. He recommends it as one of the finest known to him, and a variety of unusually late ripening season. The parent tree, which stands in a small back yard, about 10 feet from a house, is 30 feet high, slender in form, with a straight trunk 15 inches thick at the base, branched 8 feet above the ground. At this time (June, 1920) the fruits are not half grown, but judging by their present appearance and a plaster of Paris model made last year by Sr. Alfaro, it is possible to say that the form is oval to broad pyriform, and the size up to 1 pound in weight. The color is said to be green, the seed not unreasonably large, and the flesh of excellent quality. The season of ripening is September to November, sometimes to December. Most of the avocados in this region ripen in August and September. The tree is a heavy bearer, the fruits sometimes being produced in clusters of two or three." (Popenoe.)

Schizostachyum sp. (Poaceae), 50648. **Bamboo.** From Buitenzorg, Java. Plants presented by Dr. J. C. Koningsberger, director, Java Botanic Garden, through Mr. K. Heyne, Department of Agriculture. Late in 1915, Mr. L. C. Westenek, a resident of Benkulen, Sumatra, while on a trip through the highlands of Kroe, found this solid-stemmed bamboo. Material was sent to the garden of the Museum of Economic Botany, Buitenzorg, where it grew abundantly, flowered, and fruited. This bamboo forms a thick stand about 7 m. (24 ft.) high; the green stems are 3 cm. (more than an inch) thick, with joints about 25 cm. (10 inches long). (Adapted from Teysmannia, vol. 30, p. 346.)