

at a distance of a few feet are likely to be mistaken for the Irish potato. 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 gives the best results. The variety grows well on level land where the drainage is good and the soil is loosened to a good depth, or on ridges. (Adapted from C. F. Kinman in Bulletin 27, Porto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station, p. 13.)

Fragaria sp. (Rosaceae), 54976. **Strawberry.** From Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. Plants presented by Luis Kan, through Arthur Stockdale, Mexico City. "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 environing country is favorable to the growth of strawberries (fresas) which are on sale throughout the year. A score or more of venders frequent the railway station and offer the berries in small baskets. The best berries are always carefully arranged on the top; the lower layers are apt to be small, if not decayed,' which shows that the Mexicans are not far behind their northern brethren in the matter of preparing their wares for sale. The elevation of Irapuato is 5,800 feet, the climate rather cool, subtropical. I have not been able to learn the history of the Irapuato strawberry fields; probably the first plants were brought here by the Spaniards in relatively recent times, and are of European derivation. Only one variety seems to be grown; this is a rather small berry of excellent flavor. It is introduced into the United