

rector of Agriculture. "'Barbados Red.' There are two varieties of this red yam, one darker than the other, and I am forwarding tubers of the darker one." (Bovell.)

"These tubers of the darker strain of the Barbados Red yam weigh from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 pounds each and are club shaped. The inner skin is deep purple and, except near the tip of the tuber, where it is pale purple, the flesh is moderately deep purple with scattered fibers of deeper color. This yam cooks mealy and rather dry and is of very good flavor. The color fades somewhat during cooking, leaving the yam an attractive light reddish purple." (R. A. Young.)

DIOSCOREA sp. (Dioscoreaceae), 57699. **Yam.** From Oneroa, Mangaia Island, Cook Islands. Tubers presented by Geoffrey Henry. "'Maararau.' Plant the same as ordinary yams; prepare the soil and put the tubers 1 or 2 inches underground." (Henry.)

"The rather small tubers received are more or less globose, have a slightly pink inner skin, and white flesh. The quality of this yam when cooked is very good." (R. A. Young.)

DIOSPYROS KAKI (Diospyraceae), 57733. **Kaki.** From Ichang, China. Seeds presented by Rev. A. S. Cooper, American Church Mission. "Collected on the mountains back of Patung, Hupeh, China, at an altitude of 6,000 to 8,000 feet." (Cooper.)

"With the rapid extension of persimmon culture which has taken place in Florida and particularly in California, has come the need of better stock plants; *Diospyros lotus*, which has been used for this purpose, is proving unsatisfactory because of its short life and its susceptibility to the root-knot nematode. Inquiries sent by this Office to horticulturists in Japan and China elicited the information that wild or semiwild forms of *D. kaki* are considered preferable, in those regions, to *D. lotus* as rootstocks for the cultivated kakis. Two or three semiwild forms from Japan, recommended as suitable for stocks, have recently been introduced.

"E. H. Wilson, of the Arnold Arboretum, who has conducted extensive explorations in China, made the recommendation that seeds of the true wild *D. kaki* be obtained from the region of Ichang, China, where the species is indigenous. It was his opinion that the wild form, because of its vigor, should be more promising as a stock plant than any of the cultivated or semicultivated forms.

"Herbarium specimens collected by Mr. Wilson near Ichang show the wild form to be closely similar to the cultivated kakis in habit of growth and in foliage, but to differ in the much smaller size of the fruit. The latter is shaped like an acorn, and scarcely over an inch in length. The behavior of the plants grown from these seeds forwarded by Father Cooper, who has collected them while on one of his excursions