

45560 to 45564—Continued.

"The crop ripened at the end of 1917 was a very large one, indicating that the productiveness of the variety is likely to prove satisfactory. The flowering season appears to be December and January, the fruiting season November to March.

"The fruit is round, weighs about 9 ounces, and is deep purple when fully ripe. The skin is thick and woody. The flesh is yellow. The seed is rather small for a round fruit, and is tight in the cavity.

"Following is a formal description of the variety:

"Form spherical or nearly so, usually slightly oblique; size below medium, weight averaging 9 ounces, length $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, greatest breadth $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches; base slightly flattened, the stem inserted somewhat obliquely without depression; apex obliquely flattened, but not prominently so; surface practically smooth, deep dull purple in color when fully ripe, with scattering large yellowish dots; skin thick, sometimes more than one-eighth of an inch, very coarsely granular, hard and woody, rather unusually so; flesh rich cream yellow in color, with a few fine and almost unobjectionable fibers running through it, flavor rich and nutty; quality good; seed medium sized, averaging about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces in weight, oblate in form, tight in the cavity, with both seed coats adhering closely to the smooth cotyledons."

45565 to 45567.

From Paris, France. Presented by Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. Received November 30, 1917.

45565. AVENA SATIVA L. Poaceæ.

Oats.

"*Hybride noir très hâtive* [very early black hybrid]. This variety was obtained about 10 years ago at the experimental farm at Verrieres by crossing the *Australia* and *Joanette* varieties. It has been carefully selected and has proved itself to be a well-fixed variety which is vigorous, tillers well, and attains a height of 4 to 5 feet, according to cultural conditions. The panicle is well filled and perfectly continuous, and the spikelets contain two and often three beautiful, black, full, faintly awned grains.

"In our comparative studies this variety has constantly ripened 8 or 10 days in advance of the earliest, established varieties, giving a greater yield. Sown the first of March it heads early in June, and ripens about the 20th of July. In brief, it is highly profitable, uniting the best qualities—extreme earliness, abundant production, and resistance to rust and to shattering." (*Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co.*)

45566 and 45567. TRITICUM AESTIVUM L. Poaceæ.

Wheat.

(*T. vulgare* Vill.)

45566. "*Aurore*. The earliest and most productive of spring wheats.

May be sown up to the 15th or 25th of March. The spike is pale reddish, and the grain is large and reddish." (*Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co.*)

45567. "*Hybride des Allies*." This is a variety of wheat which was being planted in France to help relieve the food situation during the war. The following is an extract from a letter sent to the United States Department of Agriculture by M. Louis de Vilmorin: "We have been trying to help the farmers on this side with our new wheat '*Blé des Allies*,' which is on its way to prove itself a