

## 49745 to 49796—Continued.

crimson or orange-crimson. It is interesting chiefly to those engaged in breeding dahlias."

49759. *ERYTHRINA RUBRINERVA* H. B. K. Fabaceæ.

"(No. 338a. El Barranquillo. February 26, 1920.) *Pito*. Seeds of one of the native *Erythrinæ*. While not so valuable perhaps as a flowering plant as some of its congeners, it has the interesting feature of edible flower buds, and it is a vegetable of some importance among the Guatemalans. The buds are boiled with meat."

49760. *GUAIACUM GUATEMALENSE* Planch. Zygophyllaceæ.

"(No. 336a. El Barranquillo. February 26, 1920. Herb. No. 952.) *Guayacán*. Seeds of the Guatemalan *lignum-vitæ*, a small tree which is covered in February or March with lavender-blue flowers."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 47900.

49761. *MEDICAGO SATIVA* L. Fabaceæ.

Alfalfa.

"(No. 307a. Antigua. February 20, 1920.) Presented by Don Pedro G. Cofiño, of Antigua. Seeds of a variety of alfalfa which has been grown in Antigua for many years, perhaps introduced in Colonial days. Don Pedro Cofiño has planted *Grimm* and other varieties of alfalfa obtained from the United States, and none of them has given such good results as this native (or acclimatized) stock. He thinks, therefore, that the latter may prove useful in other regions with climatic conditions similar to those of Antigua.

"Alfalfa is grown in Antigua without irrigation, and flourishes even during the driest part of the year. There is no rainfall from October to May, and the total annual precipitation is from 30 to 40 inches. The permanent water table, however, is only 6 to 15 feet below the surface of the soil throughout the valley of Antigua. Alfalfa is cut in the Antigua region every 40 days throughout the year."

49762. *MELIA AZEDARACH* L. Meliaceæ.

"(No. 332a. El Barranquillo. February 26, 1920. Herb. No. 968.) *Paraiso*. Seeds of a tree 25 feet high with small whitish flowers, produced in January."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 26500.

49763. *PENNISETUM COMPLANATUM* (Nees) Hemsl. Poaceæ.

Grass.

"(No. 305a. Antigua. February 17, 1920.) *Kos-kün*. Seeds of the most important forage grass of the Antigua region. It is especially esteemed by the Indians of San Antonio Aguas Calientes. It makes slender wiry stems up to 6 feet high, with narrow succulent leaves and a foxtail seed head 5 or 6 inches long. It seems to grow well on dry land, though it is much less succulent during the dry season than during the wet."

49764 to 49776. *PERSEA AMERICANA* Mill. Lauraceæ.

Avocado.

(*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

49764. "(No. 313a. Guatemala. February 26, 1920.) Seeds of stock plant No. 5 from the Finca La Chacara in Antigua. An apparently very productive tree with nearly spherical fruits averaging a little less than a pound in weight and having an unusually small seed."