

**52574 to 52580—Continued.**

acterized as a very loose fine sandy loam of volcanic origin. The strawberry plantations cover an area of at least 60 acres; the plants are never irrigated, and the rainfall is probably not more than 15 inches per annum. Three times a year the fields are cleaned of weeds with a heavy hoe, this being the only cultural attention which they receive. The plants do not grow to a large size. The natives assert that the plants when irrigated make luxuriant growth but do not yield abundantly, nor is the fruit large and sweet, and this has, indeed, been observed by me to be the case when plants are grown in the town of Ambato under good cultural conditions. The fruit is harvested once a week throughout the year; there are, however, three seasons when the most abundant yield is obtained, these being in February, August, and December. The method of handling the fruit is primitive; it is carried to Ambato in kerosene boxes and is there sorted and packed in baskets for shipment by train to Guayaquil and Quito.

"In form this strawberry is less variable than most of the varieties grown in the United States. It is oblong-conical, sometimes oblong-ovoid, and from 1 to 2 inches long. When fully ripe it is light red in color, with the flesh pinkish white, meaty, juicy, and of mild, sweet flavor. The quality is not so good as that of the finest North American and European strawberries, but the fruit can be shipped much more successfully because of its firm texture.

"This is one of the most remarkable and interesting fruits of Ecuador. It deserves careful attention at the hands of North American strawberry breeders and should be tested particularly in the dry Southwestern States. I would recommend for it a light, loose, sandy soil and very little water."

**52577. LYCOPERSICON ESCULENTUM** Mill. Solanaceæ. **Tomato.**

"(No. 532a. Ambato, Ecuador. January 2, 1921.) A small tomato from the market of Ambato, Ecuador. The fruits are round, smooth, of attractive color and good quality. Of interest in connection with tomato breeding in the United States."

**52578. PRUNUS ARMENIACA** L. Amygdalaceæ. **Apricot.**

"(No. 537a. Ambato, Ecuador.) This fruit is cultivated commercially in two sections of Ecuador, at Ambato and in the vicinity of Cuenca. Regarding its behavior in the latter region, Luis Cordero (Enumeración Botánica) says: 'This handsome fruit tree succeeds perfectly in our haciendas of rather warm climate, especially in the fertile and beautiful valleys of Paute and Gualaceo. Rare is the year in which the fruit is not abundant, and for this reason the well-known boxes of apricots preserved in sirup, so highly esteemed in other parts of the country, are never wanting.' Outside the Cuenca and Ambato regions, occasional trees are to be seen at Loja and northward in Imbabura Province.

"The ripening season at Ambato is in January and February. Propagation is commonly by seed and occasionally by grafting on the peach, apricot, and plum. The varieties grown in Ecuador (seedling forms in the main) are almost invariably small fruited and considerably inferior to the best North American and European sorts.

"For trial in the United States as a stock plant."