

former American Minister to Siam, as of unusually good quality and free from the objectionable odor which characterizes those of many other countries.

55734. PHEUM PRATENSE L. Poaceæ. Timothy.

From Budapest, Hungary. Presented by the Hungarian Seed Culture Co. Received August 29, 1922.

Locally grown seed introduced for timothy breeding experiments.

55735. MYRICA RUBRA Sieb. and Zucc. Myricaceæ. Yang mae.

From Yokohama, Japan. Seeds purchased from the Yokohama Nursery Co. Received August 31, 1922.

"The beautiful dark-purple fruits are the size of crab apples and can be eaten out of hand or made into compotes and pies. There is great variation in the habit and productivity of the trees and also in the color, size, and taste of the fruits. The trees are evergreen and thrive best on well-drained rocky terraces. The localities that will best suit them in the United States will probably be the southern sections of the Gulf Coast States and the milder parts of California. Chinese name *yang mae*." (Frank N. Meyer.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 53982.

55736. PERSEA AMERICANA Mill. Lauraceæ. Avocado.
(*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

From Laguna, Guatemala. Budwood collected by Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer of the United States Department of Agriculture. Received October, 1916. Numbered September, 1922.

This variety was not distributed along with others introduced from Guatemala in 1916-17, as no buds were saved at Washington, and only one was successfully established at Miami, where several budsticks of the original shipment were sent. For a year or more the variety was considered to be lost. When it came into bearing, less than two years after the original buds were top-worked on an old tree of the West Indian race at the Miami Plant Introduction Garden, the variety was seen to be sufficiently meritorious to justify a wider trial. In habit and character of growth it is excellent; the branches are strong, not drooping, and the growth vigorous. The fruits, which ripen at Miami in late winter and early spring, are slender pyriform, about 18 ounces in weight, dark green, with the surface somewhat rough; the skin is thick and woody and the flesh cream yellow, smooth, and free from fiber, of rich flavor and excellent quality. The seed is rather small and tight in the cavity.

The original note on this variety is as follows:

"(No. 41. Laguna, Guatemala. October 2, 1916.) Avocado No. 2. *Hzamna*. A fruit of good size, having a very small seed and flesh of good quality and ripening very early in the season. The tree does not seem to be a very heavy bearer, but it is in such condition that it is difficult to say what its behavior may be under more favorable culture.

"The parent tree is growing among coffee bushes in the finca of Don Miguel Soto, a few hundred yards from the northern shore of Lake Amatitlan, at an altitude of 3,900 feet. The soil is a heavy black loam, rich and moist. The tree is about 25 feet high, with a trunk 1 foot in diameter and a rather scanty top. The amount of fruit which it is ripening this year (1916) is not great, but the crop may be considered a fair one.

"Following is a description of the fruit:

"Form oblong-pyriform, not necked; size above medium, weight 14 to 16 ounces, length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches, greatest breadth $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; base rounded, with the stem insertion nearly central; stem moderately stout, 5 inches long; apex rounded; surface pebbled, light green to yellowish green, with fairly numerous yellowish dots; skin slightly less than one-sixteenth of an inch thick at base of fruit, more than one-sixteenth of an inch thick at apex, separating readily from the flesh, brittle, and granular in texture; flesh pale cream, greenish near the skin, firm, with very slight fiber markings toward the base of the fruit; flavor nutty; quality very good; seed very small, ovate-conic in form, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, with both seed coats adhering closely and tight in the cavity.