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PLANTS USED BY THE INDIANS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA.

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THE following list of plants used by the North-American Indians inhabiting the country east of the Mississippi River was compiled during a course given to students of Radcliffe College in 1899-1900, at the Peabody Museum, by Dr. Frank Russell of the Department of American Archæology and Ethnology of Harvard University.

The linguistic groups of Indians included in this article are two: the Algonquian, the greatest family group and most prominent at the time of the settlement of the country by the whites; and the Iroquoian, who by their efficient organization became very powerful in the midst of the Algonquian country.

The arrangement of tribes under linguistic groups is that followed by the Report of the Bureau of Ethnology at Washington, D.C., for 1885-1886. The material was gleaned from the Harvard College Library, the Boston Public Library, the Boston Athenæum, the Cambridge Public Library, and the libraries of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy and of the Peabody Museum.

ALGONQUIAN FAMILY.

Algonquin. — Derivation: contracted from *Algomequin*, an Algonquian word signifying “those on the other side of the river,” *i.e.*, the St. Lawrence River.

TRIBES REPRESENTED.

Abnaki	Menomine	Pequot
Algonquin	Miami	Pottawotomi
Blackfeet	Micmac	Savannah
Delaware	Narragansett	Sax and Fox
Kickapoo	Ojibway	Shawnee

Abnaki.

Bayberry (18, p. 33)¹: the wax obtained was used with tallow for candles. — **Bean** (9, p. 25): used as food. — **Birch bark** (9, p. 29): the Abnakis used it to write upon. — **Maize** (9, p. 25): used as food. — **Reeds** (18, p. 10): mats made of reeds served as chairs and beds. — **Squash** (9, p. 25): used as food.

Algonquin.

Birch (17, p. 310): bark used for sheathing the frame of canoes. — **Elm** (17, p. 310): bark used for sheathing the frame of canoes and the filaments of the bark used to sew the sheathing of canoes together. — **Fir** (17, p. 310): the gum used to cover seams of canoes. — **Flag** (11, p. 77): the leaves of sweet flag used to thatch huts. — **Maize** (40, p. 58): used as food and the leaves used to thatch huts. — **Pine** (17, p. 310): wood sometimes used in building frames of canoes. — **Rushes** (11, p. 77): used in making mats. — **Squash** (11, p. 77): used as food. — **Tamarack** (17, p. 310): roots used to sew the sheathing of canoes together. — **Tobacco** (11, p. 77): chewed by the Algonquins. — **Wild rice** (26, p. 205): used as food.

Blackfeet.

Berries (17, p. 278): esteemed a delicacy when boiled in buffalo blood. — **Bull berries**, *Shepherdia argentea* (16, p. 203): used as food. — **Camass root** (4, p. 534): roasted bulbs used as food. — **Chokecherries** (16, p. 203): pounded up before eating. — **Maize**, *Psoralea esculenta* (5, p. 205): used as food. — **Red willow** (4, p. 534): berries

¹ The figures in bold type refer to the bibliography at the end of the article.

used as food. — **Sarvis berries**, *Amelanchier alnifolia* (16, p. 203): dried and stored for food. — **Stork's bill**, *Erodium cicutarium* (17, p. 422).

Delaware.

Dogekumak (7, p. 96): smoked with tobacco. — **Maize** (40, p. 58): used as food; leaves used to thatch huts. — **Rushes** (11, p. 77): used for mats. — **Squash** (11, p. 77): used as food. — **Sweet flag** (11, p. 77): leaves used to thatch huts. — **Sumac** (4, p. 534): leaves smoked with tobacco. — **Tobacco** (11, p. 77): smoked. — **Willow** (7, p. 96): the bark of the red willow is mixed with tobacco.

Kickapoo.

Acorns (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Beans** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Birch** (21, p. 301): bark used for canoes. — **Blackberries** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Corn** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Cottonwood** (21, p. 301): used for canoes. — **Crab apple** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Dewberries** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Gooseberries** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Gourds** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Grapes** (21, p. 265): many varieties used. — **Groundnuts** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Hazelnut** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **May apple** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Melons** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Osage oranges** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Peas** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Pecans** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Plums** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Potatoes** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Pumpkins** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Strawberries** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Sweet myrrh** or *anise root* (21, p. 265). — **Tobacco** (21, p. 265): smoked. — **Walnuts** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Whortleberries** (21, p. 265): used as food. — **Wild licorice** (21, p. 265): used as food.

Menomine.

Ash (32, p. 274): used in making bows. — **Basswood** (32, p. 258): fibre used in making mats; the inner bark is used in making string and ropes; wood (32, p. 254) used in building houses. — **Birch** (32, p. 254): bark used to cover the top and side of houses; also for canoes. — **Blueberries** (32, p. 291): used as food. — **Cat-tail flags** (32, p. 258): used in making mats. — **Cedar** (32, p. 258): bark used in making mats; white cedar (32, p. 293) used in building canoes. — **Cherry** (29, p. 52): wild cherry used as food. — **Corn** (29, p. 48): used as food. — **Crab apple** (29, p. 52): used as food. — **Currants** (29, p. 52): used as food. — **Gooseberries** (29, p. 52): used as food. —

Grapes (29, p. 52): used as food. — **Hazelnut** (29, p. 52): used as food. — **Hickory** (32, p. 274): used in making bows. — **Hops** (29, p. 52): wild hops used as food. — **Maple**, *Acer saccharinum* (32, p. 237): maple sugar made from. — **Oak** (32, p. 253): used in building houses. — **Pine** (32, p. 254): bark used in building houses. — **Plums** (29, p. 52): used as food. — **Pumpkins** (29, p. 48): used as food. — **Raspberries** (32, p. 291): used as food. — **Rushes** (32, p. 258): used in making mats. — **Snakeroot**, *Polygala senega* (32, p. 292). — **Strawberries** (29, p. 52): used as food. — **Tobacco** (32, p. 253): used as food. — **Whortleberries** (29, p. 52): used as food. — **Wild rice** (29, p. 47): used as food.

Miamoi.

Yellow lily, *Lilium canadense* (3, p. 312): roots used.

Micmac.

Apios tuberosa, *Saa-ga-ban* (4, p. 534): pear-shaped roots used as food.

Narragansett.

Chestnut (6, p. 46): used for canoes. — **Pine** (6, p. 46): used for canoes. — **Whitewood** (6, p. 46): used for canoes.

Ojibway.

Basswood (35, p. 236): used in making nets. — **Birch** (1, p. 9): bark used for the exterior of canoes; characters traced upon the inner surface of bark; these characters usually pertain to personal exploits (27, p. 59). — **Cedar** (9, p. 116): bark used in making rope or twine; used in making nets (35, p. 236). White cedar used to make the hoops for canoes; the roots used in sewing canoes (1, p. 9). — **Cherry** (1, p. 9): gum used in putting canoes together. — **Corn** (35, p. 236): used as food. — **Groundnut** (24, p. 55): used as food. — **Pine** (24, p. 73): wood used in making fire by friction. — **Potatoes** (35, p. 236): used as food. — **Red willow** (24, p. 135): bark smoked. — **Root**, *Oduhpín* (24, p. 55): used as food sometimes. — **Spunk** (24, p. 73): wood used in making fire by friction. — **Sumac** (24, p. 135): leaves smoked. — **Swan potato**, *Wahbeziepin* (24, p. 55): boiled and eaten. — **Tobacco** (24, p. 56): leaves smoked. — **Wild rice** (3, p. 120): used for food.

Pequot.

Corn (39, p. 4): used as food. — **Indian hemp** (39, p. 2): used to make twine.

Pottawotomi.

Beans (17, p. 82): used as food. — **Maize** (17, p. 82): used as food. — **Melons** (17, p. 82): used as food. — **Tobacco** (17, p. 82): leaves smoked.

Savannah.

Chinkapin nuts (25, p. 53): used as food. — **Hickory nuts** (25, p. 53): used as food.

Sax and Fox.

Basswood bark (29, p. 126): twine obtained from it to bind rushes. — **Beans** (29, p. 126): used as food. — **Cane** (14, p. 43): flageolet made from it or of two pieces of soft wood hollowed out and fastened together by strips of leather. — **Corn** (29, p. 126): used as food. — **Gooseberries** (14, p. 29): used as food. — **Grapes** (14, p. 29): used as food. — **Melons** (14, p. 44): used as food. — **Nettle** (29, p. 126): twine obtained from the bark. — **Onions** (4, p. 534): used as food. — **Pecans** (15, p. 20): used as food. — **Plums** (14, p. 29): used as food. — **Potatoes** (4, p. 534): sweet and white potatoes used as food. — **Pumpkins** (14, p. 41): used as food. — **Rushes** (29, p. 126): mats made from. — **Sap pine**, *Kee-chi-he-ja-ka* (22, p. 419): a healing gum which the Sax and Fox always take with them when they travel.

Shawnee.

Apple, *meshemenake* (2, p. 291): used as food. — **Beans**, *misoochethake* (2, p. 291): used as food. — **Indian turnip**, *e-haw-sho-ga* (22, p. 413): used with spikenard and wild licorice. — **Maize** (19, p. 14): used as food. — **Melons**, *usketomake* (2, p. 291): used as food. — **Nuts**, *pacami* (2, p. 291): used as food. — **Onions**, *shekagosheke* (2, p. 291): used as food. — **Peaches** (40, p. 17): used as food. — **Peas** (19, p. 14): several kinds used as food. — **Potatoes**, *meashethake* (2, p. 291): used as food. — **Pumpkins**, *wabego* (2, p. 291): used as food. — **Squashes** (40, p. 17): used as food. — **Tobacco** (40, p. 57): leaves smoked. — **Wheat**, *carwasque* (2, p. 291): used as food.

IROQUOIAN FAMILY.

Iroquois. — Derivation: the adaptation of the Iroquois word *hiro*, used to conclude a speech, and *koné*, an exclamation. (Charlevoix.)

TRIBES REPRESENTED.

Cayuga	Mohawk	Seneca
Cherokee	Oneida	Tuscarora
Huron	Onondaga	Wyandot

Cayuga.

Buckwheat (36, p. 58): used as food. — **Corn** (36, p. 57): used as food. — **Oats** (36, p. 58): used as food. — **Potatoes** (36, p. 58): used as food. — **Wheat** (36, p. 58): used as food.

Cherokee.

Apples (12, p. 11): used as food. — **Beans** (28, p. 69): used as food. — **Beggar's lice** (12, p. 11): tea made of it to assist the memory "since it clings so well." — **Blackberries** (12, p. 11): used as food. — **Chestnut** (28, p. 69): a tuberous root used as food. — **China brier** (23, p. 34): roots used as a blood purifier. — **Cone flower** (20, p. 197): used as a wash for sore eyes. — **Grapes** (5, pp. 228-29): used as food. — **Hemp** (5, pp. 228-29): used for cords. — **Hoary pea**, *Tephrosia virginiana* (12, p. 11): an infusion of it used as a wash to strengthen the body. — **Hops** (5, pp. 228-29): used as food. — **Horehound** (5, p. 235): wild horehound used for snake bite. — **Lobelia**, *Lobelia cardinalis*, cardinal flower (8, p. 41): a decoction of the root used. *Lobelia syphilitica*, great lobelia (23, p. 34): a blood purifier. — **May apple**, *Podophyllum peltatum* (23, p. 34): used as medicine. — **Nettle**, *Jatropha ureus*, white nettle (23, p. 34): roots used as medicine. — **Nordica** (23, p. 34): the juice of its white root used as medicine, and its roots smoked. — **Oats** (12, p. 11): cultivated as food. — **Peaches** (12, p. 11): used as food. — **Plantain** (5, p. 235): wild plantain used for snake bite. — **Potatoes** (12, p. 11): used as food. — **Pumpkins** (28, p. 69): used as food. — **Purslane**, *Portulaca oleracea* (20, p. 197): used as medicine. — **Rye** (12, p. 11): cultivated as food. — **Sarsaparilla**, *Panax ginseng* (23, p. 34): used as medicine. **Sassafras** (23, p. 34): roots used as a blood purifier. — **Snakeroot** (5, p. 235): fern snakeroot carried in the shot pouch as a remedy for snake bite. — **Squashes** (28, p. 69): used as food. — **St. Andrew's cross** (5, p. 235): used for snake bite. — **Strawberries** (12, p. 11): used as food.

Huron.

Beans (38, p. 13): cultivated as food. — **Birch** (13, p. 73): white birch bark used to cover lodges. — **Blackberries** (33, p. 143): used as

food. — **Corn** (33, p. 168): used as food. — **Gooseberries** (33, p. 143): used as food. — **Grape** (33, p. 153): used as food. — **Hemp** (38, p. 13): fibre used for twine and cordage. — **Lichen** (33, p. 142): *tripe de roche*, boiled and used as food. — **Pumpkins**, or *citrulles* (33, p. 163): used as food. — **Squashes** (38, p. 13): cultivated as food. — **Tobacco** (38, p. 13): cultivated, leaves smoked. — **Wild rice** (13, p. 73): "the stalk is woven into mats for the walls of the lodges"; fruit used as food.

Mohawk.

Corn (36, p. 52): cultivated as food.

Oneida.

Corn (36, p. 43): cultivated as food.

Onondaga.

Apple, *swa-hu-na* (10, p. 115). — **Basswood**, *ho-ho-so* (10, p. 116): used to make fine strings and mats. — **Beans**, *oo-sah-ha-tah* (10, p. 119): used as food. — **Birch**, *ga-nah-jeh-kwa* (10, p. 116): used for canoes. — **Blackberry**, *sa-he-is* (10, p. 116): used as food. — **Butternut**, *ooo-ha-wat-tah* (10, p. 119): used as food. — **Cat-tail flag**, *oo-na-too-kwa* (10, p. 118): used for mats. — **Cherry**, *ja-e-goo-nah* (10, p. 114): wood used. — **Chestnuts**, *ohch-yah-tah* (10, p. 116): used as food. — **Chokecherry**, *ne-a-tah-tah-ne* (10, p. 114): used as food. — **Currant**, *ska-heus-skah-he* (10, p. 119): used as food. — **Flax**, *ooo-skah* (thread-like) (10, p. 117): used to make thread. — **Ginseng**, *da-kien-too-keh* (10, p. 115). — **Gooseberry**, *ska-heus-skah-he-goo-na* (10, p. 114): used as food. — **Grape**, *oh-heun-kwe-sa* (10, p. 114): wild grape, used as food; *oh-heun-kwe-so-goo-no*, cultivated grape, used as food. — **Hickory**, *a-nek*, a bitter nut. *us-teek* (10, p. 120). *Oo-sook-wah*, common variety of hickory. — **Huckleberry**, *o-heah-che* (10, p. 116): used as food. — **Lettuce**, *oo-na-tah-kah-te* (10, p. 115): eaten raw. — **Maize**, *oo-ne-hah* (10, p. 119): used as food. — **May apple**, *o-na-when-stah* (10, p. 115): used as food. — **Melon**, *wah-he-yah-yees* (10, p. 114): muskmelon, used as food. *Oo-neah-sa-kah-te* (10, p. 114): watermelon, used as food. — **Peaches**, *oo-goon-why-e* (10, p. 114): used as food. — **Pear**, *koon-de-soo-kwis* (10, p. 114): used as food. — **Peas**, *o-na-kwa* (10, p. 119): used as food. — **Peppermint**, *kah-nah-noos-tah* (10, p. 116). — **Plum**, *ka-ka-tak-ne* (10, p. 118): wild plum, used for food. — **Potato**, *oo-neh-noo-kwa* (10, p. 119): used as food. — **Raspberry**, *o-nah-joo-kwa* (10, p. 116): used as food. *Tew-tone hok-toon* (10, p. 116): black

raspberry, used as food. — **Rose**, *ah-weh-ha-tah-ke* (10, p. 118): wild rose, used as medicine. — **Sarsaparilla**, *ju-ke-ta-his* (10, p. 116). — **Snakeroot**, *o-skwen-e-tah* (10, p. 120). — **Squash**, *oo-neah-sah-oon-we* (10, p. 114): used as food. — **Strawberry**, *noon-tak-tek-hah-kwa* (10, p. 114): used as food. — **Sumac**, *oot-koo-tah* (10, p. 119): leaves smoked. — **Thimbleberry**, *o-nah-joo-kwa-goo-na* (10, p. 116): used as food. — **Tobacco**, *o-yen-kwa-hon-we*, *Nicotiana rustica* (10, p. 118): leaves smoked. — **Turnip**, *o-je-kwa* (10, p. 115): used as food. — **Wake-robin**, *o-je-gen-stah* (10, p. 117); white wake-robin; medicinal use not known to the Onondagas.

Seneca.

Apples (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Ash** (34, p. 49): used to make baskets. — **Basswood** (37, p. 20): leaves used. — **Beach plums** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Beans** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Black walnuts** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Corn** (37, p. 18): used as food; husks used to make baskets (34, p. 49). — **Groundnuts** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Hazelnuts** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Hickory** (34, p. 49): snowshoes made from the wood. — **High-betony** (head-betony) (37, p. 20). — **Mandrakes** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Maple** (34, p. 48): sugar made from the sap. — **Mulberries** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Ookthaw** (37, p. 18): a root used to make bread. — **Peaches** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Potatoes** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Rushes** (34, p. 49): used to make baskets. — **Squashes** (37, p. 18): used as food. — **Sumac** (34, p. 49): leaves mixed with tobacco. — **Tobacco** (34, p. 49): leaves smoked.

Thscarora.

Beans (36, p. 69): used as food. — **Buckwheat** (36, p. 69): used as food. — **Corn** (36, p. 69): used as food. — **Oats** (36, p. 69): used as food. — **Peas** (36, p. 69): used as food. — **Potatoes** (36, p. 69): used as food. — **Turnips** (36, p. 69): used as food. — **Wheat** (36, p. 69): used as food.

Wyandot.

Beans, *yah-re-sah* (2, p. 294). — **Corn**, *nay-hah* (2, p. 294). — **Grass**, *c-ru-ta* (2, p. 294). — **Melons**, *o-nugh-sa* (2, p. 294). — **Potatoes**, *da-ween-dah* (2, p. 294). — **Pumpkins**, *o-nugh-sa* (2, p. 294). — **Weeds**, *ha-en-tan* (2, p. 294).

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