

A few pumpkin varieties are used as winter squash and are commonly referred to as squash. Table Queen is one of these. A very promising new bush type of this variety was introduced recently as "Table Queen Bush". (See Fig. 5).

**Sweet Corn.** There has been a great shift from open-pollinated to hybrid sweet corn during recent years. A good selection of hybrid sweet corn varieties offers many advantages over the open-pollinated varieties. The tendency for home gardeners is to plant on one date three to five hybrids which mature in succession and thus ensure a continuous supply of corn for fresh use or canning and freezing. One of the outstanding newer hybrids is Washington. It is early but combines good quality with high yield and ear size such as is usually associated with late varieties. Pershing and Brookhaven are new very late maturing varieties which have promise for the most favorable corn areas in North Dakota.

**Watermelons.** Several fine new watermelon varieties have made their appearance in recent years. The earliest and most interesting of these is New Hampshire Midget. It is a very early, small, red-fleshed variety of good quality. People who have difficulty in getting watermelons to ripen during hot weather when they are really appreciated should try this variety. Colebrook is another new larger-sized variety from the Orient via New Hampshire, where it was purified and named.

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References:

Graves, H. A. and F. G. Butcher, 1950. Garden Varieties for North Dakota. Circular A-1, North Dakota Agricultural Extension Service.

Yeager, A. F., 1930. Vegetable Varieties for North Dakota. Bulletin 187 North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

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### ROOT HAIRS IN FLOWERING PLANTS

The development of root hairs in flowering plants was discussed in the November number of the Botanical Review. The problem involves such questions as:

Why do some epidermal cells produce hairs, others none?

Is there a difference between these two kinds of epidermal cells?

In some plants the epidermal cells are not all alike. Is this associated with root hair production?

Why should root hairs elongate so greatly? What determines their length?

Why should they be so short lived?

What water, temperature and chemical conditions favor their development? Needless to say the questions are not fully answered. The author notes that epidermal cells often continue to elongate after the formation of the root hair has begun, but after the cell has completed its elongation it cannot be stimulated to produce root hairs. The character of the wall of the root hair has been of special interest in connection with nodule forming bacteria which enter the plant through root hairs.

—NDAC BOTANY NEWS LETTER.

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The United States leads in both production of, and international trade in, soybeans. United States exports of soybeans and oil reached the equivalent of about 65 million bushels in 1949; equal to 30 per cent of domestic production. Europe took 62 per cent of the beans and 90 per cent of the oil. (Data from Vol. 60, No. 9, "Foreign Crops and Markets", Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. D. A.)