

POTATOES

The first recorded mention of the potato was in the book, *Cornica de Peru*, written by Cieza de Leon in 1538. From dried potatoes Indians made a light, flourlike substance called CHUNO. The white potato belongs to the Nightshade family. *SOLANACEAE*

CORN

Indians held elaborate ceremonies at corn planting and harvesting times. They used corn patterns to decorate pottery, sculpture and other works of art. Corn belongs to the Grass family. *GRANINEAE*

SQUASH

The histories of squash and pumpkin are interrelated. Both were first grown in the Americas. Both belong to the Gourd family. *CUCURBITACEAE*

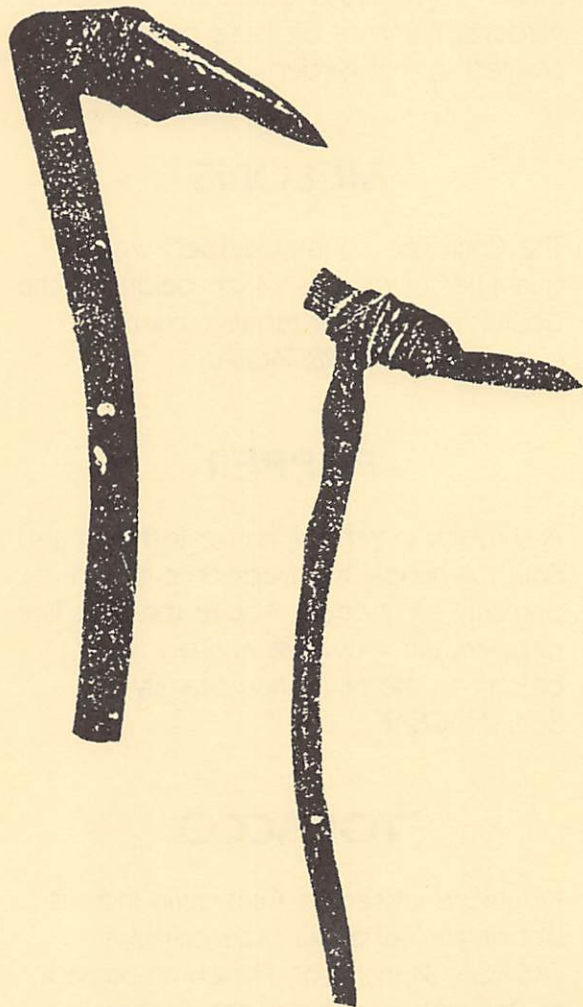
AMARANTH

The leaves can be eaten raw or cooked. Seeds can be ground into flour. Amaranth family. *AMARANTHACEAE*

SUNFLOWER

Seeds eaten raw or parched. Tithonia family.

Indian Garden



RUSSELL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

INDIAN GARDEN

By 1000 A.D. Indians at Russell Cave were planting agricultural crops and vegetable gardens. Samples of these products are planted in this garden.

MELONS

The Cherokee country yielded vast quantities of melons which belong to the Gourd family. They require much cultivation. *CUCURBITACEAE*

PEPPER

A shrubby perennial, native to North and South America, the pepper is grown primarily for its fruit. Above the frost line peppers are grown as annuals. They belong to the Nightshade family. *SOLANACEAE*

TOBACCO

Columbus observed Caribbean Indians smoking a Y-shaped pipe called a *TABACA*. Jean Nicot, French ambassador to Portugal, introduced the tobacco in France and lent his name to the genus *NICOTIANA* to which tobacco belongs. Tobacco belongs to the Nightshade family. *SOLANACEAE*

TOMATOES

Tomatoes were grown in both North and South America long before Columbus arrived. In Europe the tomato was called "the love apple" because it was believed to stimulate love. Tomatoes are members of the Nightshade family. *SOLANACEAE*

COTTON

Early American explorers found the Indians making cotton clothing. The Aztecs in Mexico grew cotton for textile purposes 8,000 years ago. Cotton belongs to the Bombax family. *BOMBACACEAE*

PEANUTS

South Americans grew peanuts at least 1,000 years ago. They belong to the Pea family. *LEGUMINOSEA*

BEANS

The most important kinds are varieties of the kidney bean. Dried beans are rich in protein and carbohydrates. Beans belong to the Pea family. *LEGUMINOSEA*