ORGAN OF THE GEORGIA AND ALABAMA VARIETIES OF VELVET BEAN.

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For many years the Florida velvet bean (*Stizolobium deeringianum* Bort) has been grown in Florida and the extreme southern part of the Gulf States as a soil-improving crop and for grazing. In other portions of the South the value of this plant was limited, as it required a frost-free season of eight to nine months to mature. Even though only a portion of the pods usually matured in the southern half of the Gulf States, many farmers valued this crop so highly for grazing and for soil improvement that they planted it annually.

As the United States Department of Agriculture recognized the value of an early-maturing velvet bean which would produce winter grazing equal to that of the Florida variety and which would mature in most parts of the cotton belt, a careful search was made for such a plant in other countries. The Chinese velvet bean was introduced from Tehwa, China, and the Yokohama velvet bean from Yokohama, Japan. Both of these plants mature earlier than the Florida variety but their pods have the undesirable characters of splitting and shattering the seed when mature. The Chinese variety is superior to the Florida for the southern portion of the Gulf States, but it rarely matures in the northern part of the cotton belt. The Yokohama matures in about 120 days, but it produces a small vine growth and most of the pods are formed so close to the ground that in a relatively short time they decay. However, before either of these species was introduced, two early maturing mutants of *Stizolobium deeringianum* were found in southern Georgia, although they were unknown to the public for several years.

In the spring of 1906, Mr. Clyde Chapman of Sumner, Ga., planted a field of corn and Florida velvet beans. The following August, several hills of mature beans were found in this field. The seed collected from these early-maturing plants was planted in corn the following year and early plants were produced, similar to those found the previous year. A small quantity of the seed grown in 1907 was distributed to several of Mr. Chapman's neighbors, but so far as

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