The Florida Experiment Station, in cooperation with the Office of Forage Crops of the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, is constantly trying out new plants from all parts of the world.

Several years ago the late Dr. C. V. Piper, then Chief of the Office of Forage Crops, had sent to the Florida Station seed of a number of species of Crotalaria in the hope that one or more of them might prove of value to Florida. Observations and experiences with these Crotalarias thus far have led to the belief that at least one species is well worth trying as a cover and land building crop. Several citrus, pecan, and tung oil grove owners of Florida have grown one of these introduced Crotalarias for several years as a grove cover and land building crop with entire satisfaction.

HISTORY OF THE PLANT

Crotalaria, of which there are many species, is a leguminous plant native to Africa, India, South America, Mexico, and the United States. In India and other parts of the Old World, Crotalaria is used as an ornamental garden plant, as well as a cover and green manure crop in coffee and tea plantations. Some species are used for fibre, while the Porto Rico Experiment Station in its annual report for 1921 describes the use of a species of Crotalaria as a forage plant. Australian investigators report some species as valuable soil improvers and some species as poisonous to livestock.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

Crotalaria striata Schrank., the species that looks most promising from the cover and land building standpoint and which will hereafter in this article be called Crotalaria, is an erect-growing annual plant not unlike beggarweed in its general habit of growth:

The plant has numerous yellow blossoms borne on long terminal racemes. The kidney-shaped seed, which vary in color from olive green to brown, are borne in pods similar to sugar peas and to ordinary rattle box. Crotalaria is closely related to the latter. Each brown to straw-colored pod contains many seed, 40- to 50-odd, which are about the size of the hulled beggarweed seed. The leaf is in three parts, or what the botanists call a "trifoliate leaf" being similar to, but somewhat smaller than, the leaf of the beggarweed. The plant on Norfolk

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