

paper men and others present are requested to get inside of a white chalk line about 3 feet from the instruments. The chairman of the board places a copy of the report face down at each instrument, and exactly at the minute and second set for release the signal is given. Each newspaper man or other reporter rushes to his instrument and thus the information is telephoned or telegraphed to all parts of the country.

The cotton report is the only one which is released during trading hours. All the other reports are released after the exchange is closed. To prevent confusion, the cotton exchanges close 5 minutes prior to the release of the report and do not reopen until 15 minutes after its release. On the morning following the release of the report a summary of it is usually to be found in all important newspapers throughout the country.

W. F. CALLANDER.

CROTALARIA Pays in Soil Improvement on Sandy Southern Land One of the greatest needs for poor soils and especially the sandy lands of the South is a vigorous legume that can be used for soil improvement. Fortunately, there are plants of this sort, and these are used to a limited extent. Velvet beans, cowpeas, and beggarweed are all good green-

manure crops, but there is perhaps none that exceeds in quantity of organic matter produced and in ease of culture certain species of crotalaria. The crotalarias are mostly tropical and subtropical annuals, though a few of the smaller species are natives of the Southern States. They are killed at a temperature of 28° F.

Of all the species tried during recent years by the United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, those giving most promise are *Crotalaria striata* (fig. 62) and *C. sericea*,

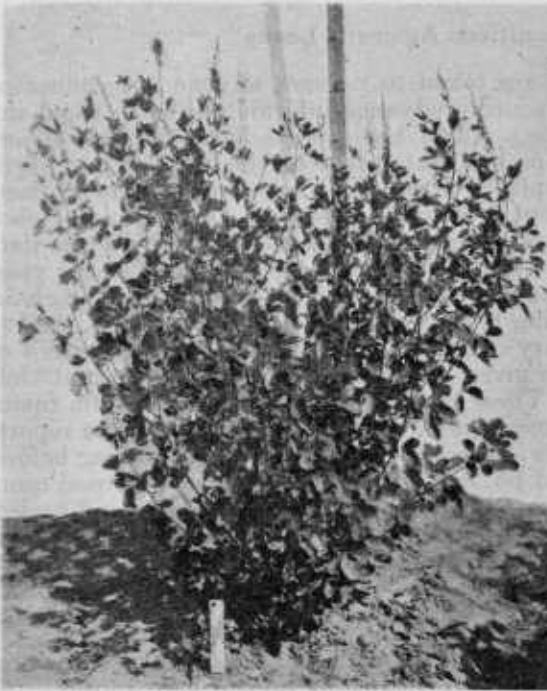


FIG. 62.—A single plant of *Crotalaria striata* in bloom

and of these the first mentioned is now being used by many orange growers and farmers in Florida. *C. striata* has three-parted leaves, while those of *C. sericea* are one bladed. Both have yellow flowers. It

is not yet known how far north *C. striata* will be useful, but it can possibly be used as a summer green-manure crop as far north as South Carolina.

In Florida the planting of crotalaria may be done at any time, but preferably before March 15. In bearing orchards planting should be done in rows so that early cultivation need not be stopped. The plants may be cut two or three times in a season and the cuttings left on the ground to be turned under in winter.

Valuable on Florida Sands

Crotalaria offers great promise for the improvement of the poor Norfolk sands so common in Florida, especially on the central ridge of the State. It does well on the poorest sands, while beggarweed will not thrive unless a crop of crotalaria has first been turned under. On these poor sands in Florida a profitable rotation can be established after crotalaria has been allowed to produce seed before being turned under. Corn can then be planted in March and the volunteer crotalaria allowed to grow after the corn is laid by in July. A heavy growth carrying enough seed to reproduce will result and may be turned under in November, to be followed by a winter crop of oats, thus giving two cash crops in one year with a green-manure crop to maintain productivity. In 90 to 100 days during midsummer, when all regular farm crops have been laid by, crotalaria will make a heavy growth and add a large quantity of nitrogen to the soil.

Seed may be sown at from 5 to 20 pounds per acre. When heavy seedings are made the hay will be finer and the yield greater, but thin seedings produce most seed. For getting a start a seeding of 5 or 6 pounds is quite satisfactory, as the seed produced will be enough to reproduce a heavy stand and leave a large quantity to be harvested. *Crotalaria striata* begins blooming in about 60 days from sowing, but produces seed irregularly through the season, while *C. sericea* blooms later but seeds more uniformly.

Amount of Nitrogen in Crotalaria

The quantity of nitrogen found in a crop of crotalaria has been found to vary from 83 to 207 pounds per acre. When the growth is turned under after seeds have ripened, the plants decay slowly and hence furnish nitrogen over a longer period than when the plants are turned under young. More organic matter and nitrogen are produced by crotalaria than by most legumes adapted to these sandy soils of the extreme South.

The hay of *Crotalaria striata* has been used, but its value is as yet uncertain. As a soil improver, however, it amply pays its way.

A. J. PIETERS.

DAIRY and Poultry Storage Figures Aid Farmers and Buyers

It is upon current production of butter and eggs that current demand for these products is largely dependent for supplies. But production varies considerably at different seasons of the year, whereas demand is a more constant factor. This fact has caused the storing of both butter and eggs to become an extensive practice. Each year vast quantities of both products are carried in cold storage from the season of heavy