



THE YAM BEAN AS A COVER CROP.

(*Cacara erosa* (L.) Kuntze, S. P. I. No. 44839.)

This yam bean is grown quite generally in the Tropics for its tender turniplike roots, which are so sweet and full of water as to be palatable when eaten raw; it is also cooked. The roots grow to the size of a large pumpkin if left in the ground for several years, but the young roots only are really edible. In southern Florida, Mr. Edward Simmonds suggested its use as a cover crop in the citrus orchards, and Mr. George B. Cellon has demonstrated its usefulness for this purpose. A single seed is planted in the quadrangle between four trees and without extending its roots far from the spot where the seed is planted it covers the ground with a mulch which resembles that made by the velvet bean, but without climbing over the trees. Prof. Charles V. Piper is on the right; Mr. Cellon on the left. (Photographed by David Fairchild at George B. Cellon's place, Miami, Fla., March 25, 1919; P24309FS.)