

SUBREGIONS FOR WHICH SPECIAL TABULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

The special tabulations for cotton farms by economic class were made for the 30 subregions in which cotton growing is of considerable importance. The location of these subregions and the distribution of cotton acreage in 1954 is shown in figure 3.

To facilitate the presentation and analysis of the new data the selected subregions were grouped into 10 regions (see fig. 4). Regions I through VI, extending from North Carolina to eastern Texas, comprise most of the humid area of cotton growing in this country. Moving west, Regions VII and VIII represent the bulk of production under subhumid climatic conditions. In Region IX is found the major part of cotton production under semiarid climatic conditions. Virtually all cotton grown in subregion 103 is found in the more southerly of the Texas counties included. Much of the crop in this region is irrigated from wells. Region X encompasses most of the cotton growing under irrigation in the arid southwest of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, and the arid San Joaquin Valley of California.

The six regions which comprise the humid climatic belt include some striking differences. The easternmost region (Region I) represents, in general, cotton production on the Eastern Coastal Plain of the United States. In some places in this region flue-cured tobacco and peanuts are more important crops than cotton. The region, in general, has larger reaches of level land than are to be found in either of the next two regions to the west.

Adjoining the Eastern Coastal Plain to the west is Region II, the Southern Piedmont. This region has some stretches of level

land but in general it is hilly, and the characteristic fields are small and irregular in shape.

The next region to the west, Region III, can perhaps be described as midsouthern hilly, with some level land. This region has rather disparate areas within it. Examples are the Black Prairie (Black Belt) of Alabama and Mississippi, the Sand Mountain area of Alabama, the brown loam areas of Tennessee and Mississippi, and the sand-clay hills of Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Immediately to the west of Region III lies the fabulous so-called "Delta"—the Alluvial Valley of the Mississippi and Red Rivers, extending from the "Boot Heel" of Missouri to the sugarcane country of southern Louisiana.

Region V is comprised mostly of the Western Sandy Coastal Plains of northeastern Texas, northwestern Louisiana, and southwestern Arkansas. It also includes the piney woods of eastern Texas and west central Louisiana, the so-called "Post Oak" area of east central Texas and the Arkansas River Valley and uplands of central Arkansas. It is in some respects the western counterpart of Region III.

The final region in the humid belt (Region VI) is coextensive with subregion 78. It is the Gulf Coast Prairie of Texas and Louisiana. Most of the cotton here is found in the Texas part; much of which is on the alluvial lands of the several streams that find their final passage to the Gulf through this region. The region includes, also, most of the specialized rice-growing farms of Texas and Louisiana. These are generally located on the heavy, rather poorly drained soils most typical of the region. Cotton and rice are not often grown on the same farms.

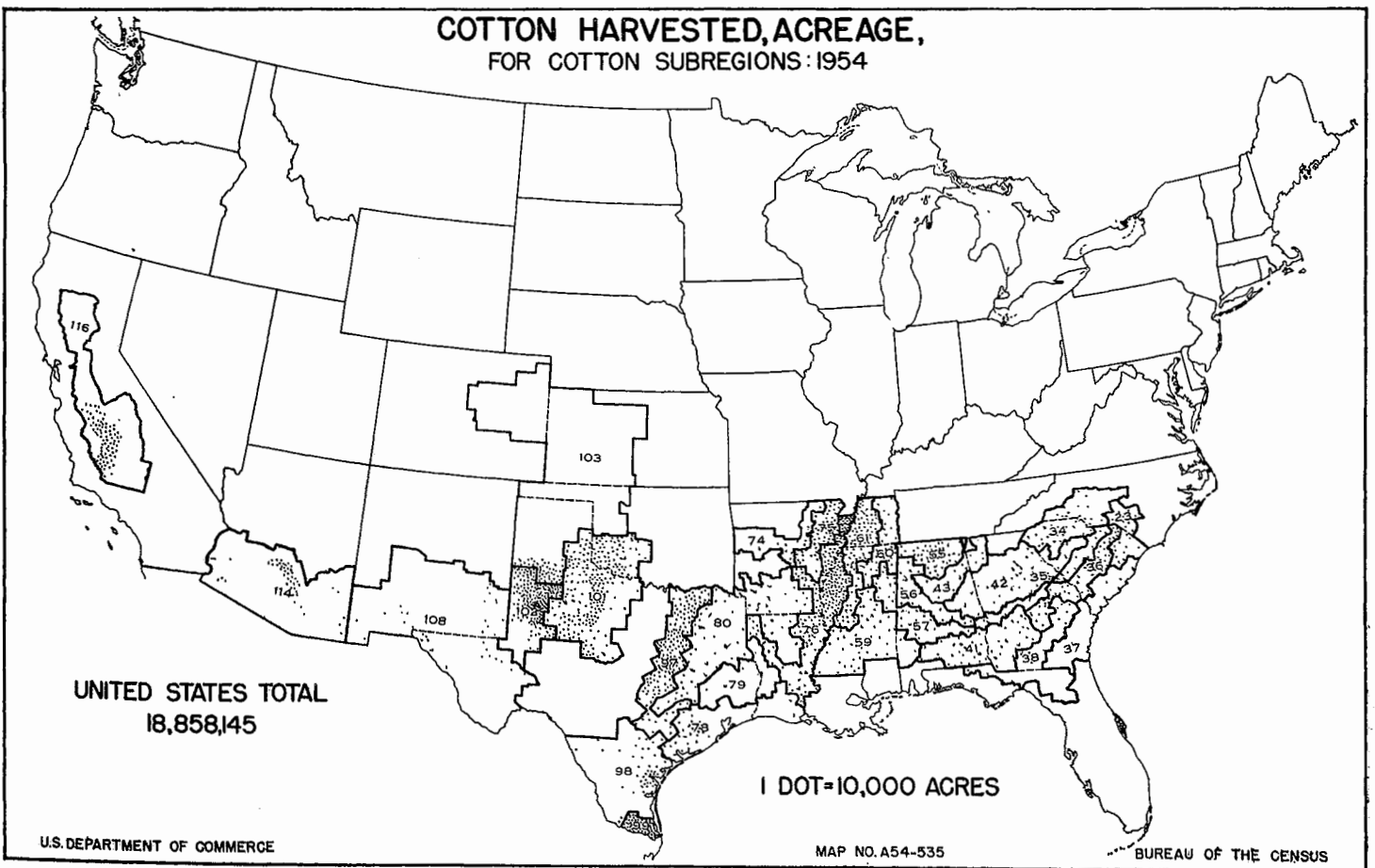


FIGURE 3.