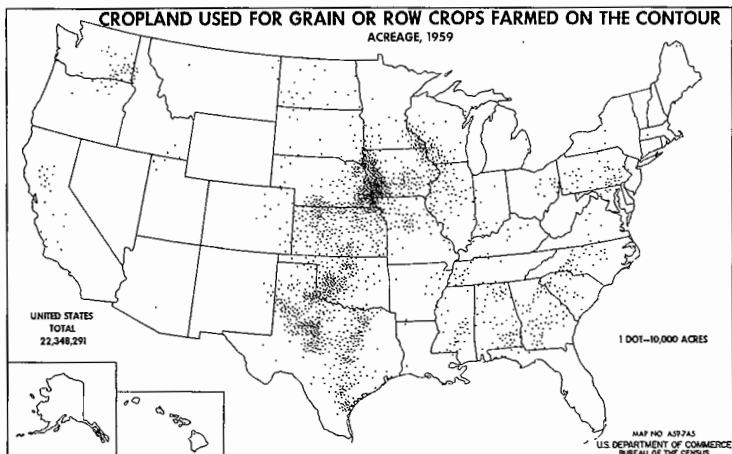


LAND IN COVER CROPS

About 9 million acres of land were planted in cover crops in 1959. Most of this acreage was found in the North Central and Southern Plains States and in the Southeastern and Appalachian States.

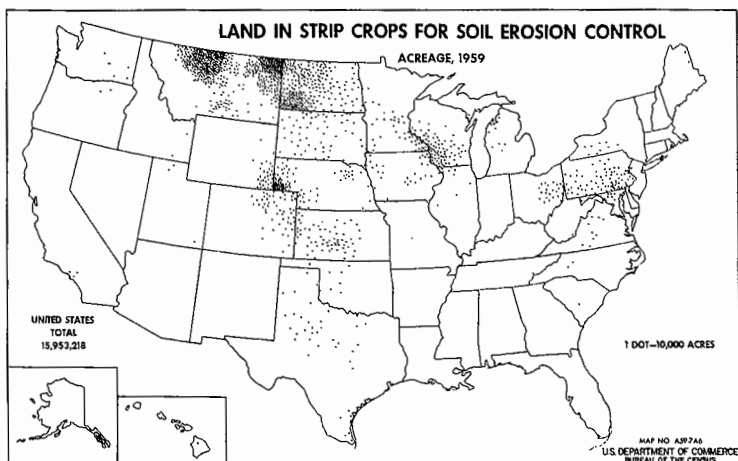
Cover crops are used as a means of enriching and protecting soil resources. Some cover crops are plowed under while still green, to provide organic matter. Other cover crops are more permanent and may occupy the land for a number of years. Annual crops grown for their cover value are generally planted in the fall to furnish cover during the winter months, or in some instances in the spring for protection of land during the summer months when cash and feed crops are not being grown.



CROPLAND USED FOR GRAIN OR ROW CROPS FARMED ON THE CONTOUR

The planting of grain or row crops on the contour has become a major conservation practice in the United States during the past 25 years. More than 22 million acres were reported in the 1959 Census of Agriculture as being farmed on the contour. Crops are planted on the contour when the rows or strips are laid out at right angles to the natural slope of the land. Farming land on the contour generally means that alternating strips or bands of different crops are also used in order to retard soil and water loss. Row crops alternating with close-sown crops is a common arrangement. The different crops commonly grown are also rotated among the different strips of land.

This practice is used especially in the Great Plains States and in the western part of the Corn Belt and Lake States. A considerable acreage is also found in Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio and in parts of the Southern States.



LAND IN STRIP CROPS FOR SOIL EROSION CONTROL

The practice of planting strips of wheat, barley, or oats alternating with strips of cultivated summer fallow at right angles to the prevailing wind direction has been especially common in the northern and central parts of the Great Plains. This practice was in use on approximately 16 million acres in 1959.

Along the dry margin for wheat production in the Great Plains there is a considerable hazard of soil blowing, especially in dry years. Wind stripcropping, stubble mulching, and other conservation practices help to control soil blowing. Some of the land on which these practices are currently being employed are from a physical standpoint better suited for the grazing of livestock than for the production of wheat.