The southwestern cotton-growing region produces annually more than 40% of the Nation's cotton crop. The methods used in the production of this crop, therefore, are of interest and importance to the entire Nation. A brief description of the region and its main features or characteristics will enable a better understanding of the methods in practice.

In general, that part of the cotton belt which can be properly designated as the Southwest has its eastern edge at the dividing line between the great black prairie region and the timbered section to the east. This line is approximately on the 96th meridian and includes roughly the western three-fourths of the states of Texas and Oklahoma and all of New Mexico and Arizona. East of this area, the general features of the territory are not radically different from those in the eastern part of the cotton-growing region of the South. Throughout the southwestern area the general climatic and soil conditions are radically different from eastern conditions, these differences becoming more marked as the western limits of cotton production are approached. While the cotton production methods outlined in this paper are applicable in a general way to the entire southwestern region, the discussion is based upon methods and practices now in use in Texas and other dry-land areas.

The climatic features of the Southwest embrace a more limited and more erratic rainfall than exists in the East and as one approaches the 97th meridian the rainfall decreases to 30 inches annually on the average and even lower to the westward. This region with less than 30 inches rainfall may be designated in general as the sub-humid region.

The temperatures of this region are moderate during the crop-growing season, owing to wind movement and the generally higher elevation than exists in the eastern cotton belt. The winter temperatures are somewhat lower than those of the eastern cotton-growing region because of the increasing altitude as one proceeds westward. In the extreme northwestern part of the sub-humid region, the altitude tends to shorten the crop-growing season. The weather of the growing season is characterized by bright warm days

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