Alabama ranks in the top 10 cotton producing states each year.

Cotton is grown in 59 of Alabama's 67 counties.

Alabama's top 10 cotton-producing counties are Cherokee, Covington, Dale, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lauderdale, Madison and Monroe.

A bale of cotton weighs 480 pounds.

One bale produces enough oil to cook nearly 6,000 snack-size bags of potato chips.

One bale of cotton can make 215 pairs of jeans; 249 bed sheets; 313,600 $100 bills; 690 bath towels; or 1,217 T-shirts.

Approximately 10-15 percent of a cotton producer's income is derived from cottonseed.

Cottonseed oil is used in snack foods, mayonnaise, margarine, baking or frying oils, explosives, cosmetics, rubber, soap and insecticides.

The cotton industry provides more than 340,000 jobs and generates over $60 billion in the U.S.

A typical gin, where cotton is separated into lint and seed, processes about 12 bales per hour, while more modern gins may process up to 60 bales an hour.

Round bale cotton pickers have increased farmer productivity in the last decade due to a decrease in labor required to run module builders and other equipment.

The cotton plant flowers before bolls form. Flowers are first white, then turn pink after pollination and fall off the plant, leaving a tiny boll that grows and opens to produce white cotton fibers.

In 1995, bollworm damage reduced Alabama cotton yields by 29 percent despite growers applying the highest applications of insecticide in the U.S.

Thanks to cotton genetically engineered with Bt technology (derived from the bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis), which is harmless to animals, people and insects other than the bollworm, the threat is reduced.

One dollar per bale of cotton goes to the state cotton checkoff for research, education and promotion.

Sources:
bt.ucsd.edu
Cotton.org
USDA.gov

Fact Sheet: Cotton