

## **GEOBOTANICAL MAP OF RUSSIA FOR NATIONAL ATLAS**

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The vegetation map s. 1 : 15 000 000 will be included into section "Nature and resources" of National Atlas of Russia. The legend of the map was constructed according to the regional-typological principle, traditional for small-scale maps of the Russian school of geobotanical cartography. But the regional principle was accentuated in the legend.

The regional differentiation of vegetation cover was emphasized in the legend through uniting the mapping units into regional groups (sectors). This permits to represent clearly botanical-geographic macrostructure of vegetation cover.

The legend of the map is subdivided first into the vegetation of plains and that of mountains. Thus, the essential difference in character, composition and structure of vegetation between plains and mountains is emphasized. The categories of the next (lower) rank for plains are types of vegetation in a broad sense. These will be tundra, taiga etc. The next hierarchic step is a regional group. The mapping units are united into regional groups according to the principle of botanical-geographic unity. Geographically differentiating species provide a basement for such uniting. Within regional groups mappings units are placed one after another from the north to south, and within one subzonal group - from the placor type to edaphic variants. Owing to such construction of the legend it is obvious that structure of zonation reveals itself within the limits of a sector.

In comparison with earlier published survey vegetation map, mountain vegetation in the given map is shown most peculiarly. We posed the goal to show the vegetation of every mountain as entire entity, retaining the essential features of its separate parts which are controlled by the latitudinal position of pedestal (the north-south trend), the elevation of a given mountain and its meridional position (the trend of oceanity-continentality, of humidity-dryness). We rejected the traditional showing of separate mountain belts. The mountain vegetation is united into 12 regional subdivisions corresponding to mountain systems. The mapping unit is typical belt sequence.

The map itself is enough detailed for the given scale. In total it comprises more than 130 units of vegetation.

It is supposed that in the legend and in the vegetation map of Russia we have managed to embody the principale idea, namely to mirror the regional and latitudinal differetiation of vegetation cover of the country. The map has to be considere as a new botanical-geographic analysis of vegetation, and its comparison with the other maps of natural cycle which will be included in the Atlas will permit thereafter to extend this analysis and to reveal in a greater detail the relations between vegetation and environmental factors.