This color-infrared image was taken from the Landsat-2 satellite orbiting 575 miles above the earth. Each side of the image is approximately 100 miles long and the entire scene covers about 10,000 square miles. The satellite’s sensors record reflected colors from the earth’s surface in electronic form. This information is relayed to ground stations where computers are used to produce photographic-like images.

The unusual pink coloration represents green vegetation, which appears pink or red in all infrared pictures. Pink and red areas that follow stream valleys are meadows and open land with very few trees. The dark red area of evergreen trees stands out near Summersville Reservoir (lower right); leafless deciduous trees appear brownish. In the lower left, agricultural fields show up as rectangular plots along the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers. The interstate highways appear as thin white lines, particularly north of Charleston where I-77 and I-79 start. The cities appear to have a bluish color similar to the surface mines (to the right of Clarksburg).