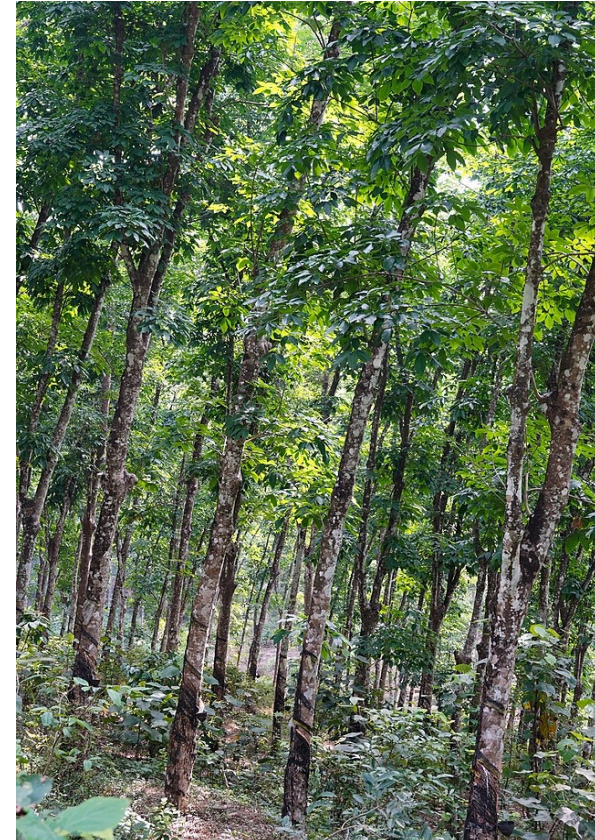


# **FAST FACTS ABOUT...**

## **SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RUBBER**

# WHAT IS NATURAL RUBBER?

Natural rubber is derived from the sap of certain plants, predominantly the *Hevea Brasiliensis* tree.



Hevea Brasiliensis tree  
Photo Credit: Timothy A. Consalves

Source: [USTMA Supports the Development of a Domestic Supply of Natural Rubber White Paper](#)

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO THE TIRE INDUSTRY?

**Natural rubber is critical to manufacturing safe and durable tires.**

## **Durability**

Natural rubber is critical for all tires as it serves to provide durability. Certain tire performance can only be achieved through the use of natural rubber.

## **Performance**

Commercial and military aircraft tire treads are almost completely made from natural rubber because synthetic rubber cannot perform in this application.

## **Unique Properties**

Natural rubber is also the main component in heavy duty truck and bus tire treads due to its unique properties.

# WHY DOES THE U.S. NEED A DOMESTIC SUPPLY?

**Over 90%** of current natural rubber supply originates in Southeast Asia.

The rubber tree is very susceptible to **disease**.

Loss of this supply chain from Asia would exacerbate supply chain issues in the U.S., affecting **tire production and defense capabilities**.

# ALTERNATIVES TO HEVEA NATURAL RUBBER

The two most promising natural rubber producing plants to use in developing a domestic supply of natural rubber are guayule and TKS (dandelion).

## Domestically Available

Both plants can be grown in different parts of the U.S.

## Performance

Both plants provide equivalent performance to Hevea natural rubber in tires.

## Economical

Both plants contain valuable co-products which serve to reduce the cost of rubber.

# HOW TO DEVELOP A DOMESTIC SUPPLY

**Incentivize** the needed investments to help farmers adapt to planting rubber-producing crops.

**Scale** commercial processing facilities to extract the rubber and co-products from the plants.

**Increase investment** into public research of other domestic alternatives to Hevea natural rubbers.



*Guayule shrub*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RUBBER  
ON [USTIRES.ORG](https://ustires.org).**