

TIME TO HIT THE ROAD WITH GUAYULE

Guayule – pronounced “why-YOO-lee” – is a woody desert shrub that grows in the southwestern United States. Mostly known as an excellent source of natural latex, guayule natural rubber is an extremely desirable substitute for tropical Hevea tree rubber because it does not contain the proteins found in tropical rubber that can cause allergic reactions in some consumers. To boot, guayule-based products serve as greener, grown in the USA substitutes for many synthetic, petroleum-based products.

For more than a decade, ARS researchers with the Bioproducts Research Unit in Albany, CA, have worked to take advantage of these benefits and change our costly overreliance on imported rubber and petroleum.

In 2016, the scientists developed an improved variety of guayule plant as a natural source of tire rubber, optimizing yield capacity.

Currently, ARS researchers are exploring guayule as a source of inexpensive and clean energy, such as converting the plant into ethanol and other biofuels. The research so far is promising.

It's not a stretch to say that guayule has the potential to be a super plant in the near future!



Stay up to date with ARS! Learn how we're solving major agricultural problems.



Agricultural Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

www.ars.usda.gov

