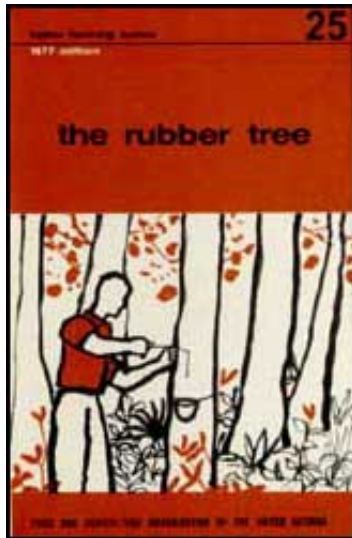


[Home](#) > [ar](#).[cn](#).[de](#).[en](#).[es](#).[fr](#).[id](#).[it](#).[ph](#).[po](#).[ru](#).[sw](#)




➔  Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

 *(introduction...)*

Preface

 *(introduction...)*

 Why rubber trees are grown














 Where rubber trees are grown






Preparing the seedlings

 *(introduction...)*

 Germinating seeds in the germinator

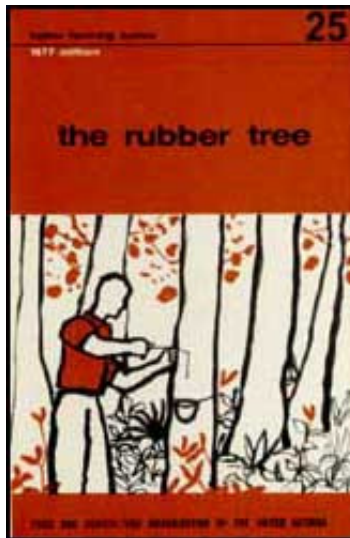
 Putting the germinated seeds in the nursery

-  **Plan of nursery**
-  Looking after the nursery
-  Grafting young plants
-  **Preparing the ground and making the plantation**
-  (*introduction...*)
-  Putting the young plants in the plantation
-  **Looking after the plantation**
-  (*introduction...*)
-  Taking care of the plantation after tapping
-  Protection against disease and insects
-  **Tapping**
-  (*introduction...*)
- 



-  The trunk of the rubber tree
-  Starting the tapping
-  Harvesting the latex
-  Harvesting latex at the right time
-  Suggested question paper



[Home](#) > [ar](#) [.cn](#) [.de](#) [.en](#) [.es](#) [.fr](#) [.id](#) [.it](#) [.ph](#) [.po](#) [.ru](#) [.sw](#)



 Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

-   *(introduction...)*
- Preface
- Preparing the seedlings
- Preparing the ground and making the plantation
- Looking after the plantation
- Tapping



Suggested question paper

Published by arrangement with the
Institut africain pour le dveloppement conomique et social
B.P. 8008, Abidjan, Cte d'Ivoire

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS
Rome 1977

FAO Economic and Social/ Development Series No. 3/25

First printing 1977

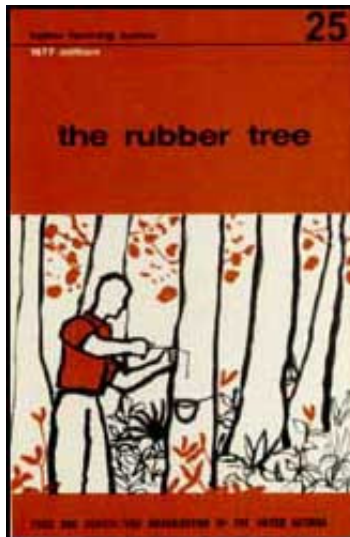
ISBN 92-5-100156-1

© French edition, Institut africain pour le dveloppement
conomique et social (INADES) 1969

© English edition, FAO 1977



[Home](#) > [ar](#).[cn](#).[de](#).[en](#).[es](#).[fr](#).[id](#).[it](#).[ph](#).[po](#).[ru](#).[sw](#)



 Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

➔  Preface

 *(introduction...)*

 Why rubber trees are grown

 Where rubber trees are grown

Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO -

INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

Preface

This manual is a translation and adaptation of "L'hva," published by the Agri- Service- Afrique of the Institut africain pour le dveloppement conomique et social (INADES), and forms part of a series of 26 booklets. Grateful acknowledgement is made to the publishers for making available this text, which it is hoped will find widespread use at the intermediate level of agricultural education and training in English speaking countries.

The original texts were prepared for an African environment and this is naturally reflected in the English version. However, it is expected that many of the manuals of the series a list of which will be found on the inside front cover will also be of value for training in many other parts of the world.

Adaptations can be made to the text where necessary owing to different climatic and ecological conditions.

Applications for permission to issue this manual in other languages are welcomed. Such applications should be addressed to: Director, Publications Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy.

The author of this English version is Mr. A.J. Henderson, former Chief of the FAO Editorial Branch.

Why rubber trees are grown

The rubber tree is grown because rubber is made from the latex in its bark.

The rubber tree has roots made up of a tap- root and creeping roots.

In the bark of the rubber tree there is a liquid called latex.

The latex is harvested by making a slit in the bark, that is, by cutting a piece of bark.

The latex makes the rubber that is used:

- in the tires of bicycles, motorcars and airplanes;
- for the soles of shoes;
- for many other things.

Rubber is in great demand all over the world; more and more of it is needed.

But it is very difficult to grow rubber trees well and to harvest the latex.

They cannot be grown everywhere.

They need:

- a high temperature;
- plenty of water;
- moist air, though they can withstand a dry season.

Where rubber trees are grown

Rubber trees are grown in regions that are hot and moist, that is:

- in Africa (250 000 tons of natural rubber);
- in Central and South America (31 700 tons of natural rubber)
- in Asia, which is the chief producer (3 207 100 tons of natural rubber).

In Africa they are grown mainly in the forest regions.

In Africa the chief producers of natural rubber are:

Liberia	100 000 tons
Nigeria	80 000 tons
Zaire	35 675 tons
Ivory Coast	18 000 tons
Cameroon	12 000 tons
Central African Empire	1 250 tons
Ghana	1 700 tons
Mali	1 100 tons
Congo	160 tons

These production Figures (for 1974) are from the FAO Production Yearbook 1974.

To grow good rubber trees and harvest plenty of latex, you must:

- prepare the seedlings well;
- make a good plantation;
- look after the plantation;
- harvest the latex well.




[Home](#) > [ar](#).[cn](#).[de](#).[en](#).[es](#).[fr](#).[id](#).[it](#).[ph](#).[po](#).[ru](#).[sw](#)

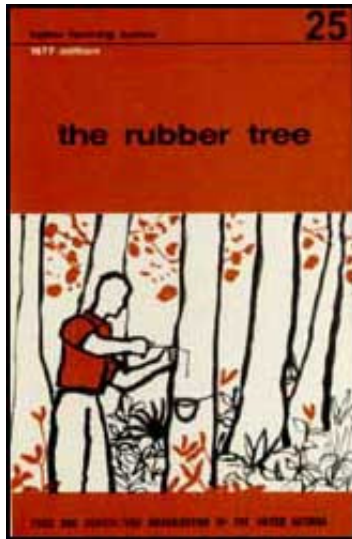
 Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)




  Preparing the seedlings

 *(introduction...)*

 Germinating seeds in the germinator

 Putting the germinated seeds in the nursery



-  Plan of nursery
-  Looking after the nursery
-  Grafting young plants

Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

Preparing the seedlings

It takes a long time to get good rubber tree seedlings to put in the plantation.

It takes two years to get seedlings for putting in the plantation.

To raise seedlings for the plantation, you must:

- make the seeds germinate in the germinator;
- put the germinated seeds in the nursery;
- look after the nursery;
- graft the young seedlings in the nursery.

Germinating seeds in the germinator

To do this, you have to:

- make the germinator;
 - choose the seeds;
 - put the seeds in the germinator.
-
- Making the germinator

A germinator is the place where you sow the seeds to make them germinate.

To make a germinator you must choose ground that is quite flat, that has no vegetable refuse on it; you must choose a spot that can be easily watered.

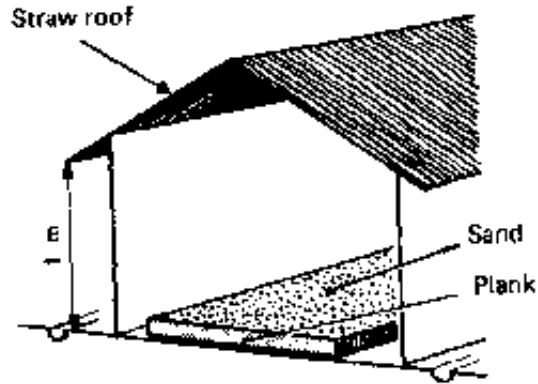
Make beds 1 metre wide.

Each bed is edged with planks, so as to make a box.

Into each box put sand to a depth of 10 centimetres.

Cover the germinator with a roof made of straw.

The roof must be at least 1 metre above ground, so that you can get underneath it to put the seeds to germinate.



The roof

- Choosing the seeds

To get good seeds, it is best to ask for them at a seed selection centre.

The seeds must be put in the germinator as soon as they have been harvested for they very quickly become unable to

germinate.

When you put the seeds in the germinator, you must look to see if each seed is shiny and bright. If it is not, do not put it in, because it will not germinate.

- Putting the seeds in the germinator

Push the seed half way into the sand, with the rounded side of the seed uppermost.



Push the seed half way into the sand

Put the seeds close together, side by side, and water them.

To make a plantation of 1 hectare, with 625 trees, you must put 1 700 seeds to germinate. So you must have a germinator 1.7 metres long and 1 metre wide.

A week later the seed has germinated, and the rootlet is about 2 centimetres long.

This is the time to take the seeds out of the germinator and put them in the nursery.

Putting the germinated seeds in the nursery

The nursery is the place where you put the germinated seeds so that they will grow into young rubber trees.

- The soil of the nursery must be well prepared

Choose a spot that is easy to water.

Grub up all trees.

A few days before planting the germinated seeds remove all vegetable refuse.

The soil must be tilled by hand very deeply, to at least 60 centimetres, with a hoe.

Then the soil must be levelled and harrowed to break up clods.

This is how the nursery is made ready for the germinated seeds.

Putting the germinated seeds in the nursery

The germinated seeds are planted in rows. In each row leave 40 centimetres between seeds. Leave 30 centimetres between the rows. Plant the seedlings (germinated seeds) in alternate spacing, as shown in the drawing on page 9. Make four rows in each nursery bed. Leave 60 centimetres between the nursery

beds. After every four beds, leave a space of 1.20 metres.

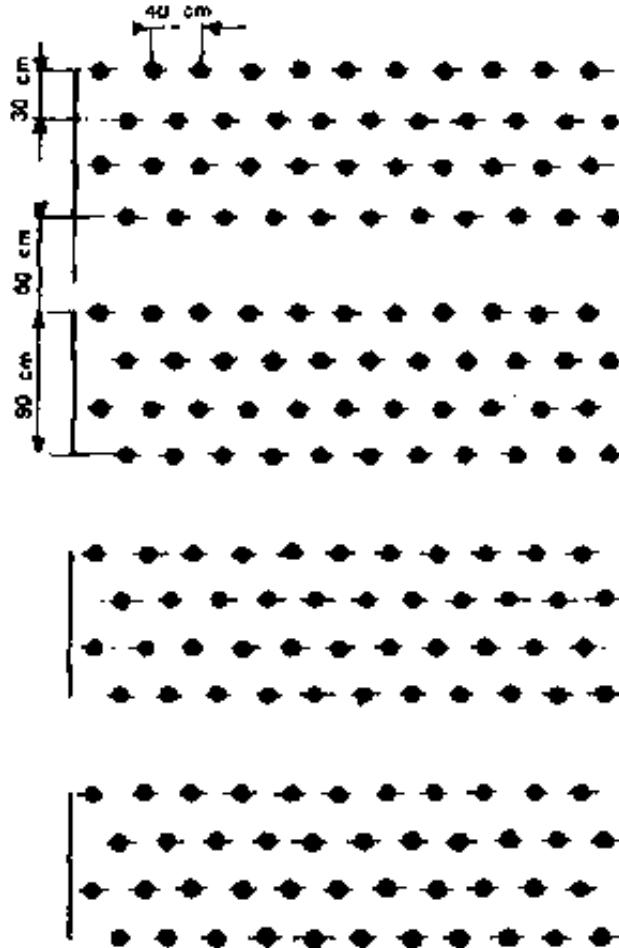
Thus 1 hectare will contain 58 000 seedlings.

To make a plantation of 1 hectare, you have to plant 1 500 germinated seeds; that means two nursery beds, each 70 metres long.

When transplanting the seedlings, press the soil well down round the tap- root and the rootless, without damaging them.

Water the seedlings as soon as you have transplanted them.

Plan of nursery



Plan of nursery

Looking after the nursery

You must hoe often to get rid of weeds, and to keep the soil moist.

In the dry season you must water rather often. But do not water in the middle of the day. Water in the morning or in the evening.

If the soil is not very fertile, you can give it fertilizer, as follows:

- The first time, 2 months after transplanting, give 150 kilogrammes of ammonium phosphate to each hectare and 75 kilogrammes of potassium chloride to each hectare. This means that for a bed of 70 square metres you need 1 kilogramme of ammonium

phosphate and 0.5 kilogramme of potassium chloride.

- The second time, 5 months after transplanting, give the same amounts.

But you must get advice from technical officers, because different soils have different needs.

Ten months after transplanting to the nursery, take out the young plants that have not grown well.

When the young plants are between 12 and 15 months old, during the short rainy season, grafting must be done.

Grafting is a difficult job. You must pay great attention to it.

Grafting young plants

Grafting means putting into a young plant (the stock) a little

piece of a branch (the scion) taken from a tree of good quality.

The young plant in the nursery is the stock. It will provide the roots of the plant which is to be put into the plantation.

You take a piece of a branch from a tree that gives plenty of latex this is called the scion. The scion will provide the stem of the plant that is to be put into the plantation.

To graft you use a grafting knife with a very sharp blade.



Grafting knife

To do the grafting, you have to:

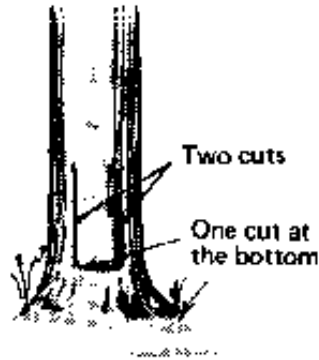
- prepare the young plant from the nursery (the stock)
- take the scion from a tree of good quality;
- place the scion in the stock.

Afterwards look to see if the graft has succeeded.

- Preparing the stock

When the young plant in the nursery (the stock) is 3 or 3.5 centimetres thick, it can be grafted.

A few centimetres above the ground, make two cuts in the stock about 4 or 5 centimetres long and 2 centimetres apart. Then make one cut at the bottom to join the other two cuts at the lower end.

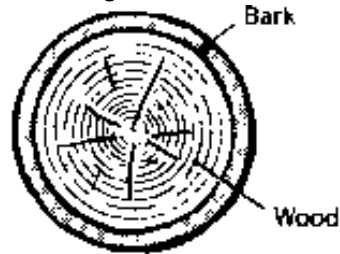


Preparing the stock

All these cuts are made in the bark only. You must not cut into the wood.

You will see, if you cut a stem right across, that

- outside is the bark;
- inside is the hard wood.



You cut a stem right across

The cuts must be made so that the bark can be peeled back.

Make the cuts on 20 plants, one after the other. You will see a white liquid flowing out. This is the latex.

- Taking the scion

Ask at a selection centre for rubber tree branches for grafting. These branches have about the same thickness as the stock. They are called grafting wood.

These branches for grafting have no leaves; the leaves have

been taken off 10 days before cutting the branches. As soon as the selection centre has given you the grafting wood, the grafts must be done at once, during the next 24 hours.

In the first- year course we learned that on the stem there are buds below the leaves. If you look closely just below a leaf you will see that there is a bud.

This bud is called an eye.

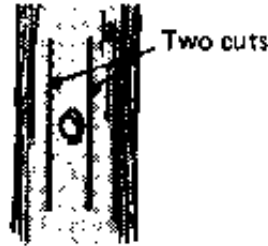


Bud

To get a scion, take an eye with a little piece of the bark round it.

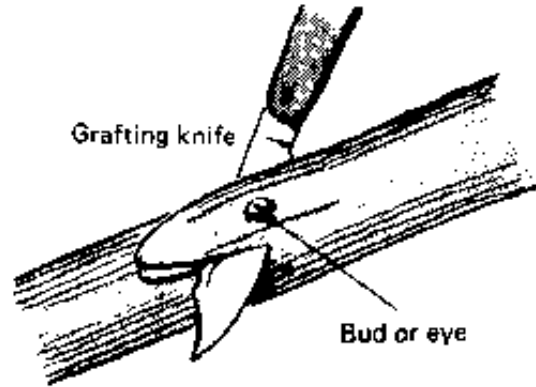
Take a branch of grafting wood in order to remove an eye

from it. Round this eye make two cuts 5 or 6 centimetres long and 1 or 2 centimetres apart. You will see the latex flow out.



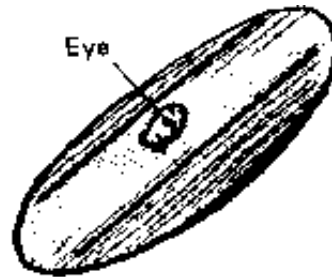
Make two cuts

Remove the eye by cutting into the wood of the branch with the grafting knife.



Remove the eye

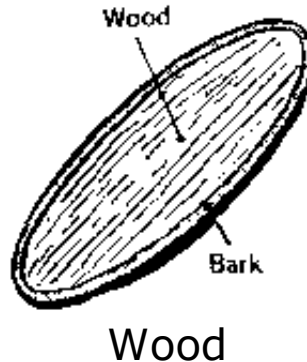
Now you have a piece of grafting wood with an eye in the centre of it.



Eye

If you look at the back of this piece of wood, you will see that:

- in the middle there is wood;
- round the outside is bark.
- Putting the scion in the stock



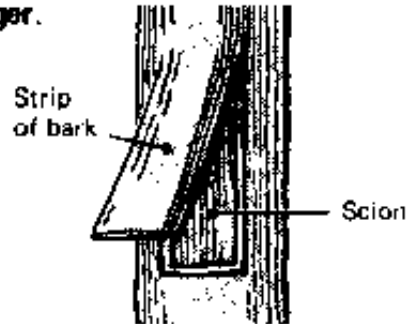
With a rag, wipe off the latex that has flowed out of the stock.

Peel back gently the strip of bark cut when preparing the

stock.

You must not touch the underside of this strip with your finger

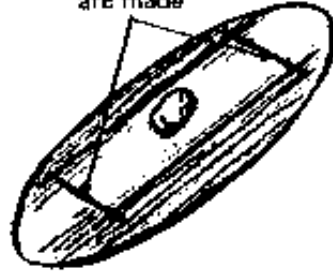
with your finger.



You must not touch the underside

Take the piece removed from the grafting wood. Make two cuts, one on each side of the eye, so as to mark off the scion.

Two cuts
are made



Make two cuts

Peel off the piece of bark with the eye. Do not take any wood and do not touch the underside of the scion.

Peeling off
the scion



The scion
removed



Peeling off the scion

Now you have the scion by itself.

Next, put the scion under the strip of bark peeled back on the stock.

Do not touch the wood of the stock and the back of the scion.



Strip of bark

Put back the strip of bark over the scion and bind it to the trunk with a band 4 centimetres wide and 60 centimetres long. The graft is finished.

To plant 1 hectare, 1 400 plants must be grafted.

Three weeks after making the graft, take away the band and cut the strip of bark at the top of the vertical cuts. The graft has been successful if the scion is well joined to the stock, and if the graft is green when you scratch it a little. There should be at least 85% of successes.

The young plants are now left in the nursery until the next rainy season. Then the grafted plants will be put into final position in the plantation.

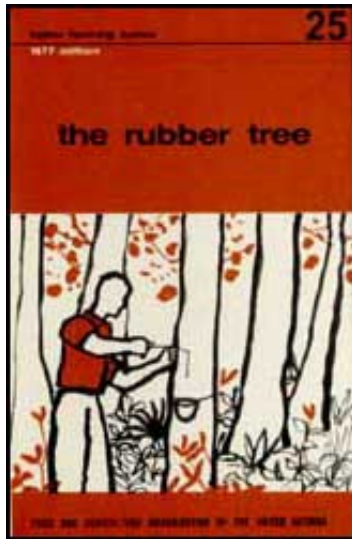


[Home](#) [ar](#) [.cn](#) [.de](#) [.en](#) [.es](#) [.fr](#) [.id](#) [.it](#) [.ph](#) [.po](#) [.ru](#) [.sw](#)



Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)





Preparing the ground and making
the plantation
(*introduction...*)

Putting the young plants in the
plantation

Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

Preparing the ground and making the plantation

To make a good plantation, you must:

- prepare the soil well;
- do the planting well.

Preparing the soil

Choose deep soil that is never flooded. Then the tap- root of the rubber tree can go down well into the soil.

Once the site is chosen, you have to:

- clear the ground;
 - stake out the rows;
 - make terraces to control erosion.
- Clearing the ground

Remove the trees by grubbing them. Take the earth away round the base of each tree and cut the roots. Then the tree will fall, pulling out its stump.

At the beginning of the dry season, do any burning that is necessary.

- Staking the rows

This means putting stakes where the trees are to be planted. If the ground slopes, the stakes must be placed along the contour lines. Put the stakes 2 metres apart in each row. Make the rows 8 metres apart. This will give 625 plants on 1 hectare.

After this, you must put the grubbed- out trees between the rows.

- Making terraces on the contour lines

When the ground slopes, terraces must be made along the contour lines to prevent erosion.

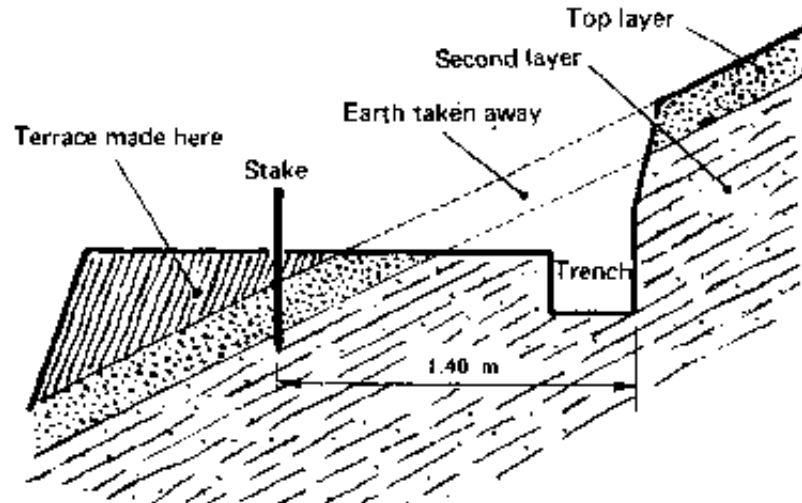
Take away the soil above the stake and put it lower down.

The terrace should be 2 metres wide.

Dig a trench 0.35 metre deep and 0.35 metre wide.

Make the terrace slope a little against the slope of the land.

The stake is 1.40 metres from the trench.



The terrace

Everything must be finished by the beginning of the rainy

season before planting.

At the beginning of the rainy season, sow cover crop plants between the terraces. In forested country use *Tithonia diversifolia*, in savanna, plant *Pueraria*.

The site is then ready for the plantation.

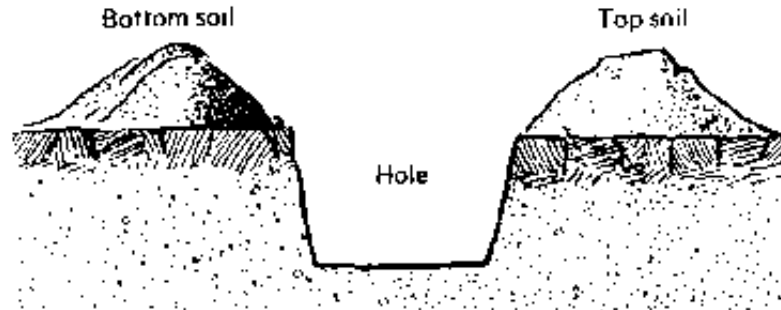
Putting the young plants in the plantation

At the beginning of the rainy season, put the young plants in the plantation.

A month before planting, make holes at the points marked by the stakes.

The holes should be 60 centimetres deep, 60 centimetres long and 60 centimetres wide. The bottom soil must be kept separate from the top soil.

Refill the hole 10 days before planting, putting the bottom soil down below.



The bottom soil

Take out the young plants in the nursery by cutting the tap-root at a depth of 70 centimetres.

Then trim the plant as follows:

- cut the stem 5 centimetres above the graft;
- cut the tap- root 60 centimetres from the base of the

stem;

- trim all side roots back to the tap- root.

Then make a hole with a dibber. Push the tap- root into the soil at the bottom of the hole, and pack the soil well all round the tap- root. The plant must stand upright.

Then fill up the hole, putting back a little soil and pressing it down well. You must put only a little soil at a time and press it well down as you go on.



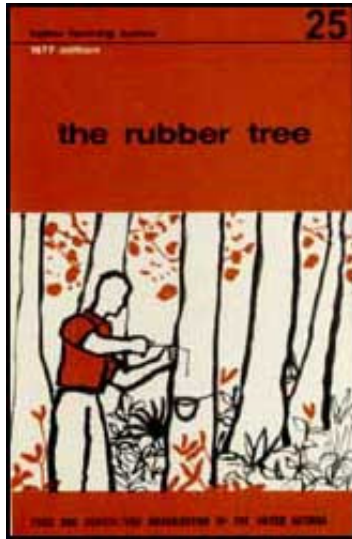
[Home](#)"" """"> [ar](#).[cn](#).[de](#).[en](#).[es](#).[fr](#).[id](#).[it](#).[ph](#).[po](#).[ru](#).[sw](#)






Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)



Looking after the plantation



-  *(introduction...)*
-  Taking care of the plantation after tapping
-  Protection against disease and insects

Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

Looking after the plantation

To have a good plantation that gives a lot of latex the planter must:

- look after the plantation before tapping;
- look after the plantation after tapping;
- protect the rubber trees against diseases and insects.

Looking after the plantation before tapping

To look after the plantation before tapping, you must: take good care of the trees; make clearings, that is, remove the less good trees, and those that have not grown well;

- look after the soil.
- Taking care of the trees

The trees must be:

- disbudded;
- replaced where missing;
- pruned.

- Disbudding

Disbudding means to remove buds that have grown.

When the scion grows, it forms a stem; on this stem shoots appear. All the shoots up to a height of 3 metres from the ground must be removed. There will then be a fine trunk with branches only above 3 metres that will form the crown of the tree. (The crown is all the branches that grow from the trunk.)

- Replacing missing trees

During the first year after planting, trees that have not grown must be replaced.

- Pruning the trees

It may happen that a tree grows without forming a crown of branches at a height of 3 metres. In that case, cut the stem at

this height, so that a crown of branches will form.

If the crown is too dense, or if one part has more branches than another, it must be pruned 3 or 4 years after planting.

- Making clearings

As some trees will die, and some will be ill, extra trees have been planted.

When tapping begins (5 years after planting), there must be 500 trees to the hectare; the trees should be 50 centimetres in circumference at a height of 1 metre from the ground.

So from the second year after planting, some trees have to be removed. Remove about 30 trees every year during the second, third, fourth and fifth years.

In choosing what trees to remove, take account of the

following:

- disease: diseased trees are the first to be removed; o
- growth: take out all those that have grown badly;
- close neighbours: removal of trees should leave a regular plantation.

- Looking after the soil

The rubber trees are planted in rows; between the rows of trees are ground cover plants. So you must look after the rows, and look after the ground between the rows.

- Looking after the rows of trees

They must be cultivated with the hoe, by hand, as follows:

- in the year after planting, carry out one cultivation every 3 weeks;

- in the second and third year, one cultivation every month;
- in the fourth year, one cultivation every 6 weeks;
- in the fifth year, one cultivation every 2 months;
- in the sixth year, one cultivation every 3 months.

If the dry season is very dry, the number of cultivations can be reduced.

Weed killers can also be used, making an application every 3 or 4 months.

- Looking after the ground between the rows

The ground cover plant must be cut 3 or 4 times a year to a height of 30 or 40 centimetres.

One cutting must be done before the dry season; the cut stems and leaves are used to mulch the rows.

You must remove weeds such as Imperata (a herbaceous plant with hard, long, straight leaves and very long roots). You can pull up the Imperata by hand and then dig up the underground roots with a pick.

If the plantation is well looked after before tapping, it will have fine trees when the time for tapping comes. But you must also take care of the plantation after tapping begins.

Taking care of the plantation after tapping

To keep the plantation in a good state after tapping has begun, you must:

- go on removing unwanted trees;
 - take good care of the soil.
-
- Removing unwanted trees

After about 12 years there should be about 350 trees to the hectare. (There were 450 when tapping began.)

Trees must be removed

- one year after tapping begins;
 - three to four years after tapping begins;
 - and in the twelfth year, so as to have 350 trees to the hectare.
-
- Care of the soil

By this time the rubber tree is full grown and covers the soil well, so that few plants grow beneath it. All the same, the soil must be kept clear at the base of the trees.

The cover plants between the rows must be cut once a year.

The terraces must be kept up, so that they do not crumble

away.

By looking after the plantation well, you will get fine trees. But you must not let them be attacked by diseases.

Protection against disease and insects

The most serious disease is root rot. It destroys the roots and makes the tree die.

The rubber tree may also be attacked by insects; they do less serious damage.

- Control of disease of the roots

The tree may be attacked by white root rot (Fomes), which makes the roots rot.

Then the tree dies.

It is very important to see if white root rot has attacked a tree, because, by the time you see that the tree is ill, it is too late.

Control of white root rot is carried out in two stages:
First, detecting the disease

During the first five years after planting, twice a year, you must get freshly cut grass and put it close up against the base of each tree. A fortnight later, look to see if there are little white threads on the trees underneath the dry grass.

If you see little white threads, the tree is ill, it has white root rot. So you must treat it.

- Second, treatment of the disease

Dig a hole to uncover the roots of the tree, without injuring them. The hole should be 40 to 50 centimetres deep.

If the roots have been attacked, the tree must be cut down and the roots taken out.

If the roots have not been attacked, and there are only white threads on them, you put a special product on the tap- root and the beginnings of the side roots. This product is called quintozene.

- Control of insects

The most dangerous insects are mites and crickets.

The treatment for insects is to apply lindane.



[Home](#) > [ar](#).[cn](#).[de](#).[en](#).[es](#).[fr](#).[id](#).[it](#).[ph](#).[po](#).[ru](#).[sw](#)

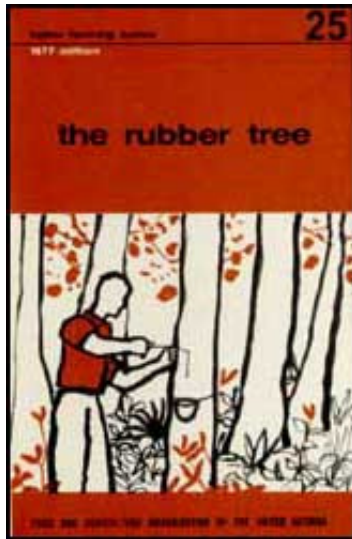


Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber

Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

➔ ☐ Tapping

- 📄 *(introduction...)*
- 📄 The trunk of the rubber tree
- 📄 Starting the tapping
- 📄 Harvesting the latex
- 📄 Harvesting latex at the right time



Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)

Tapping

Tapping means

- to make a cut in the bark of the rubber tree
- to harvest the latex.

Tapping is difficult to do well. You must take care how you do it.

For a good tapping, you must:

- make a good cut;
- harvest the latex well;
- harvest the latex at the right time.

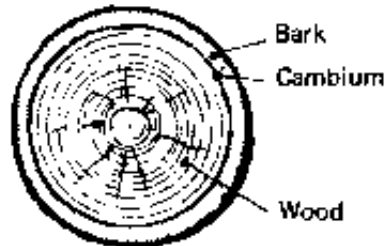
Before we see how to make the tapping, let us look back at what we learned in the course on plant stems.

Let us see how the trunk of the rubber tree is made.

The trunk of the rubber tree

If you cut through a trunk, you see several layers.

- On the outside is the bark, which is about 6 millimetres thick.
- In the centre is the wood.
- Between the wood and the bark there is a layer which cannot be seen with the naked eye, because it is very thin. This is the cambium layer.

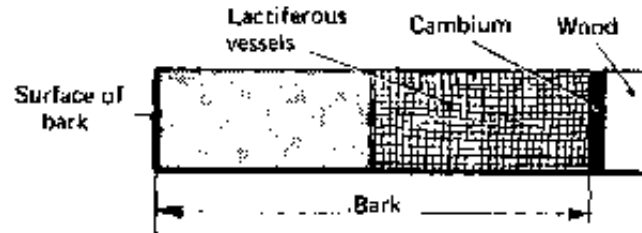


The wood and the bark

The cambium makes the tree grow, by producing wood and

bark. So you must not damage it if you want the tree to grow normally.

If you look at rubber tree bark with a microscope, you will see several layers. One of these, the deepest, contains little channels called lactiferous vessels because they contain latex. This layer is next to the cambium.



You see several layers

The lactiferous vessels are little tubes that produce latex.

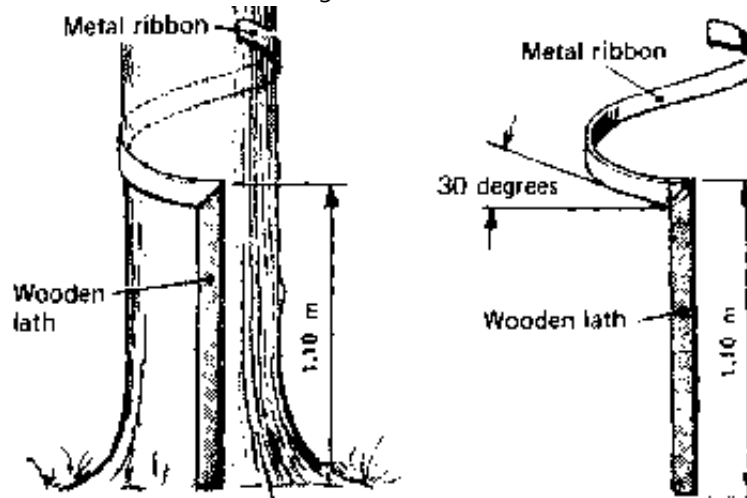
In tapping, you cut these little tubes containing latex. But you must take care not to cut the cambium.

Starting the tapping

When a tree is 50 centimetres in circumference at a height of 1 metre from the ground, that is, 5 years after it has been put in the plantation, you can begin to tap the tree.

To start the tapping, take a metal ribbon attached to a wooden lath 1.10 metres long.

This metal ribbon is at an angle of 30 degrees to the horizontal.

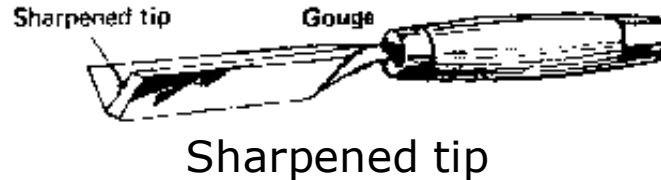


Metal ribbon

Roll the metal ribbon round the tree. With an awl (an iron point) make a cut along the ribbon. The cut ends when you have gone right round the tree. The beginning of the cut and the end of the cut are on the same vertical line.

With the awl make a vertical channel from the lower edge of the cut.

The cut and the channel must be deepened. This is done with a gouge, a tool that is used by pushing it so as to remove bark.



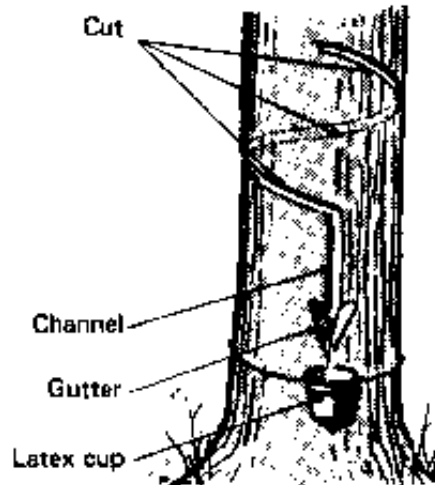
Push the gouge several times along the cut and the channel, taking away a very little bark at a time. You do this so as to cut the bark as close as possible to the cambium, but without damaging it.

As the bark is about 6 millimetres thick the cut must be 4.5 millimetres deep.

The vertical channel is 25 centimetres long. At the lower end of this channel, put a gutter. Below that, put a cup called a

latex cup. Tie it to the tree.

The latex flows along the cut, into the channel, and at last, through the gutter, it drops into the cup.



The latex flows

The latex that flows when you first make the cut is not good for harvesting so for several days you do not harvest any

latex, but all the same you must come and cut the bark.

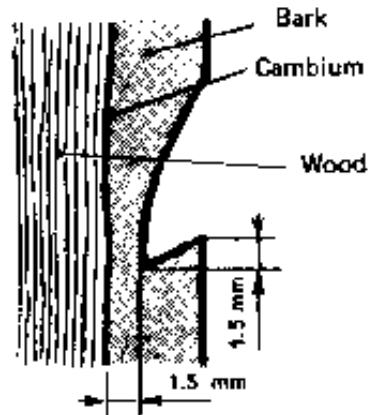
Harvesting the latex

Early in the morning, go to the plantation to reopen the cut.

Begin by taking away the latex that has coagulated on the cut and put it in a basket. Take away also any latex that has flowed over the bark.

Then, with the gouge, take out a little piece of bark, 1.5 millimetres thick, without touching the cambium.

Make the cut as far as 1.5 millimetres from the cambium.



Make the cut11

The latex flows along the cut, then down the channel, and through the gutter, it drops into the latex cup.

Then, 4 hours later, come again and collect what is in the cup. Two days afterwards, clean out the cup.

One man can tap 440 trees a day. The man who does the tapping is called the tapper.

If you make the cut badly, and if you touch the cambium, the bark closes up badly. It splits and turns brown. Then the tapping must be stopped.

There is a product for treating this browning of the bark.

Harvesting latex at the right time

The trees must be tapped very early in the morning, at daybreak, so as to harvest as much latex as possible. If you make the cuts late in the day, you harvest less latex, one third less.

But you must not tap the trees every day.

Each tree should be tapped on a fixed day.

Thus,

- one tree is tapped on Monday and Thursday;
- another, on Tuesday and Friday;
- a third on Wednesday and Saturday.

Each tapper can tap 440 trees. So he will have 3 groups of 440 trees, since he will tap each tree only twice a week. He will have:

- one group tapped on Monday and Thursday;
- one group tapped on Tuesday and Friday;
- one group tapped on Wednesday and Saturday.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |

He will stop tapping for two months, in the dry season, that is, at the time when the tree loses its leaves and makes new leaves.

When you have worked over the whole length of the tree, taking away the bark, that is, after 7 years, you can begin again, starting at 1.5 metres from the ground.

You can do this three times. That means you can harvest latex for 28 years. After that, it is best to make a new plantation.



[Home](#) > [ar](#).[cn](#).[de](#).[en](#).[es](#).[fr](#).[id](#).[it](#).[ph](#).[po](#).[ru](#).[sw](#)



Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber Tree (FAO - INADES, 1977, 31 p.)



(introduction...)



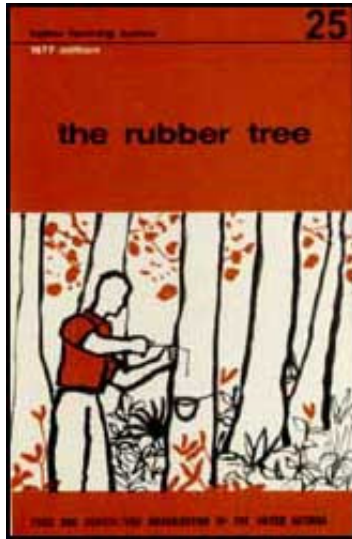
Preface



Preparing the seedlings



Preparing the ground and making the plantation



- Looking after the plantation
- Tapping
- ➔ Suggested question paper

Suggested question paper

FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS

In the bark of the rubber tree there is a liquid called
The place where you sow the seeds to make them germinate is called

For grafting, you use a

The terraces must be made on the

To disbud means

The disease which makes the roots rot is called

Between the wood and the bark there is a layer which cannot be seen with the naked eye; it is called .

The little tubes that produce latex are called

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Why are rubber trees grown?

How do you prepare the young plant (the stock) which is to take the scion? Make a drawing.

How do you take the scion? Make drawings.

How do you make the holes before planting the young trees in the plantation?

How do you protect the trees against white root rot? How do you start the tapping? How do you harvest the latex?

19/10/2011

Better Farming Series 25 - The Rubber ...

