

Continental's Dandelion Tires

Natural Rubber and Tires:

- Between 10 and 30 percent of a car tire includes natural rubber
- Truck tires can include proportionally higher amounts of natural rubber
- Today, natural rubber is obtained almost exclusively from the rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) located in a small part of the world around the equator (the rubber belt)
- The growth cycle of a rubber tree is roughly seven years before it can start producing latex that can be used in rubber production

Dandelion Rubber in Tires:

- Continental has produced test tires that include rubber made from dandelion roots
- The first test tires were produced in summer 2014 from the WinterContact TS 850 P series and were tested in Sweden and at the Contidrom proving grounds in Germany
- Continental plans to manufacture consumer road tires made from dandelion-derived rubber within five to 10 years

The Russian Dandelion:

- The Russian dandelion is a larger, more robust variant and can be produced in mass quantities
- This type of dandelion looks very different from the domestic dandelions that grow in lawns
- The roots contain latex – one of the key raw materials required in tire production
- The roots of the Russian dandelion are less sensitive to weather than common dandelions, allowing them to thrive in a large part of the world and can be cultivated on land not suitable for food production
- The growth cycle for the Russian dandelion is approximately one year
- Continental's dandelions are optimized without the use of genetic engineering

Taraxagum™:

- Taraxagum™ is derived from the botanical name for dandelion, taraxcum
- Continental has registered the workmark/logo "Taraxgum"
- www.taraxagum.com includes information on the project

Project Partners:

- Continental is cooperating with the Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology (IME), the Julius Kuehn-Institute, and the plant breeder Aeskulap,

- The goal is to cultivate a very high-yield and undemanding type of dandelion based on the Russian dandelion

The Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology (IME):

- Fraunhofer is Europe's largest application-oriented research organization
- IME has approximately 300 employees in Germany
- IME pursues research in the field of applied life sciences from molecular to ecosystem level, and maintains close links with the University of Münster, where the type of dandelion for future rubber production was cultivated

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