

Hon. D. N. Fletcher

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It is true that the Ficus elastica rubber tree referred to in the quotation does grow well in Florida and the trees in some localities have reached enormous size, but rubber trees are able to grow under conditions where they will yield only a small quantity of latex, or rubber milk, and the information that has come to us indicates that this has been the case with the Ficus elastica and other rubber-producing trees and vines in Florida. On the basis of this information, therefore, we cannot at this time hold any definite encouragement regarding the commercial production of rubber in that state.

You are, of course, aware that the Ficus elastica rubber tree is not the same as the Hevea, or Para rubber tree, which furnishes over ninety per cent of the world's supply of raw rubber.

Henry C. Wallace
Secy of Agriculture