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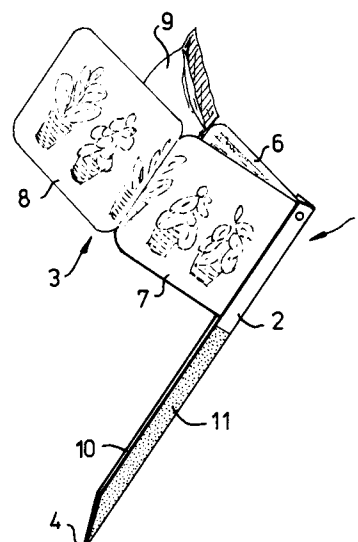
**0 560 461 A1**

(12)

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**NL-2502 LS Den Haag (NL)**(54) **Information carrier.**

(57) Information carrier (1) for placing in soil or another yielding substrate. The information carrier (1) comprises a support (2) which is made pointed at one end (4), so that it can be placed in the substrate. At the other end the elongated support is fixed to the information part (3) by, for example, gluing or clamping. This information part (3) comprises at least two sheets (9,6) which are connected at one end to the support (2).

fig - 2

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The invention relates to an information carrier according to the preamble of claim 1.

Such an information carrier is known from US-A-4,027,410. In that specification the support and sheets are moulded from a single part. It is used for pot plants, and comprises an elongated support, the free end of which is flattened to a sheet, on which information is placed.

Such a support is fairly complicated to manufacture and can contain only a very limited quantity of information. The object of the invention is to provide an information carrier which is easy to place, cheap to manufacture, and can contain more information.

This object is achieved with an information carrier according to the preamble of claim 1 with the characterizing features of claim 1.

The fact that according to the invention a number of sheets is now fastened to the support rather than a flat, single part means that a large quantity of information can be accommodated. The connection between the information part and the support can comprise all techniques known in the prior art, such as gluing and clamping. If the support according to a preferred embodiment is made U-shaped or V-shaped, the sheets can be clamped in the U or the V.

According to a further advantageous embodiment, at least one of the sheets is in the form of a container for holding fertilizer material. According to another advantageous embodiment, the support can be provided with an indicator layer. This indicator layer can be designed to indicate the temperature or the moisture content. The indicator layer can also be designed to indicate the conductivity of the substrate. The support and the information part can consist of all materials known in the prior art, but they are preferably environmentally friendly materials, such as paper material.

The invention will be explained in greater detail below with reference to an example of an embodiment shown in the drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 shows in perspective view the information carrier according to the invention, placed in a pot plant; and

Fig. 2 shows the information carrier according to Fig. 1, with the information part opened out, and on an enlarged scale.

The information carrier according to the invention is indicated in its entirety by 1. It comprises a support 2 and an information part 3. Support 2 is provided at the end with a sharp point 4, which can be placed in the soil of a pot plant 5, as shown in Fig. 1. Information part 3 consists of at least two sheets, indicated by 6 and 7, sheet 7 being provided with a further sheet 8 at the end, while sheet 6 is provided at the end with a holder 9 for holding fertilizer material. Support 2 comprises two layers

of paper folded against each other to form a V-shape. The V is indicated by 10. The information part is fixed to the support by first partially folding support 2 to form a V or U, sliding sheets 6 and 7 (which can be interconnected by a fold) between them, and fixing the two parts forming the support 2 to each other, with glue or otherwise. Support 2 and information part 3 preferably consist of environmentally friendly material, such as paper. In order to prevent problems with regard to moisture, support 2 can be provided externally with a plastic layer or other protective layer. The inside of the groove 10 need not be coated with such a material, because sufficient protection from penetrating moisture is obtained by pressing or gluing the parts together.

Fig. 1 shows the information part in the position before it is opened out, while Fig. 2 shows it opened out. It is clear that a particularly large quantity of information can be conveyed to the user with such a combination. As can be seen from Fig. 2, support 2 is provided at its bottom end with an indicator layer 11. This layer can give an indication of the temperature, the moisture content or the electrical conductivity of the soil in which support 2 is inserted.

Although the invention is described above with reference to a preferred embodiment, it must be understood that numerous modifications can be made thereto without going beyond the scope of the present application.

## Claims

1. Information carrier (1) for placing in soil or another yielding substrate, comprising an elongated support (2), which is provided with a pointed end (4), and has a printed information part (3) accommodated at the other end thereof comprising a number of sheets, said sheets being arranged near the boundary between two sheets at the support, characterised in that the information part (3) comprises a separate part having at least three foldable sheets (9-6), said separate part being mechanically connected with the support (2).
2. Information carrier according to Claim 1, in which the connection between information part and support involves gluing.
3. Information carrier according to one of the preceding claims, in which the connection between information part and support involves clamping.
4. Information carrier according to one of the preceding claims, in which the support comprises

a U-shaped or V-shaped element, the information part being clamped in the U or in the V.

5. Information carrier according to one of the preceding claims, in which the support is provided with an indicator layer. 5
6. Information carrier according to Claim 5, in which the indicator layer comprises a temperature-sensitive layer. 10
7. Information carrier according to Claim 5 or 6, in which the indicator layer comprises a moisture-sensitive layer. 15
8. Information carrier according to one of Claims 5 - 7, in which said indicator layer comprises a layer which indicates the electrical conductivity of the substrate. 20
9. Information carrier according to one of the preceding claims, in which the support consists of paper material.
10. Information carrier according to one of the preceding claims, in which the information part consists of paper material. 25

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fig-1

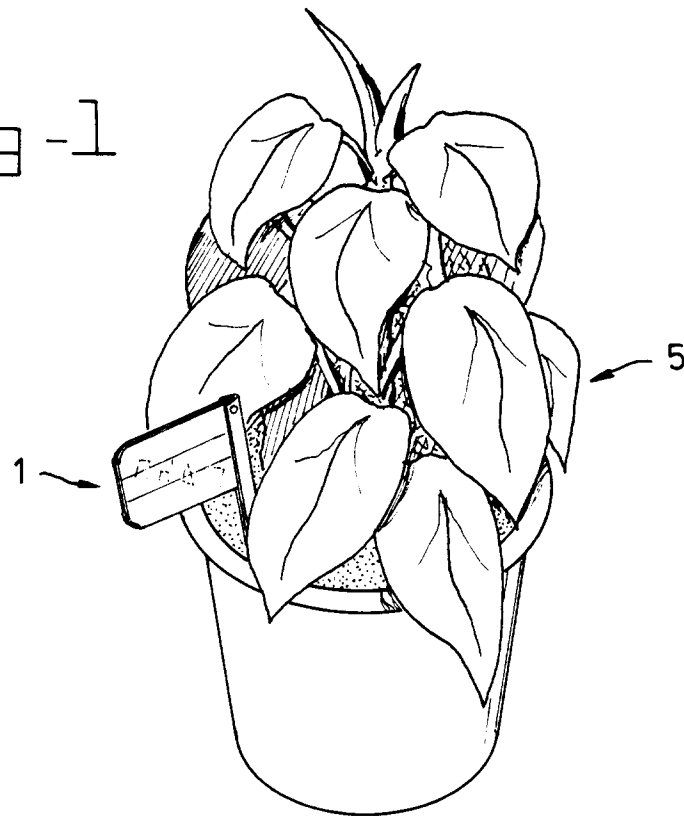
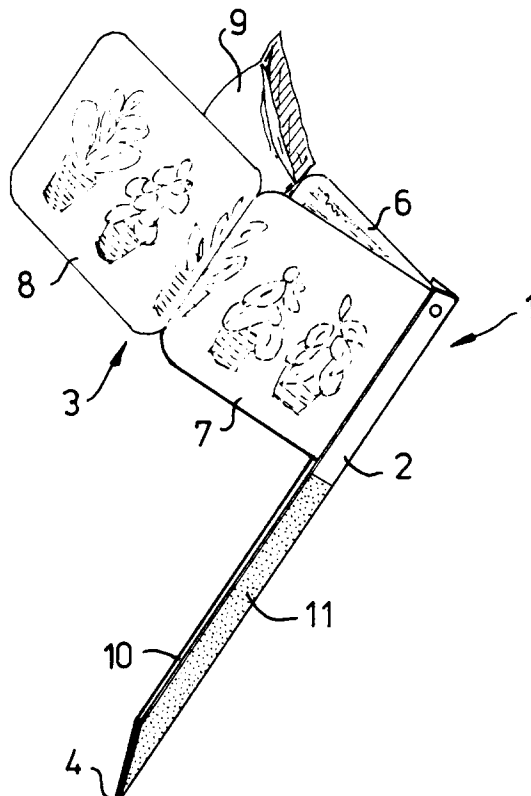


fig - 2





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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 20 0738

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                               |                                                 |                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Category                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                 | Relevant to claim                               | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5) |
| D,A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | US-A-4 027 410 (P. WHEELER)<br>* abstract; figures 1-4 *<br>---                               | 1                                               | G09F3/18<br>G09F3/12                          |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | DE-A-3 540 963 (H. BILSTEIN)<br>* column 6, line 68 - column 7, line 10;<br>figure 1 *<br>--- | 5,7                                             |                                               |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | US-A-4 972 616 (J. DOLL)<br>-----                                                             |                                                 |                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                               |                                                 | TECHNICAL FIELDS<br>SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                               |                                                 | G09F<br>A01G                                  |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                               |                                                 |                                               |
| Place of search<br>THE HAGUE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                               | Date of completion of the search<br>04 MAY 1993 | Examiner<br>GALLO G.G.                        |
| <b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b><br>X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document<br>T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>.....<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |                                                                                               |                                                 |                                               |