June 12, 1956 L. R. POCHE 2,749,697

PECAN PICKER

Filed Oct. 24, 1955

Fig. 1

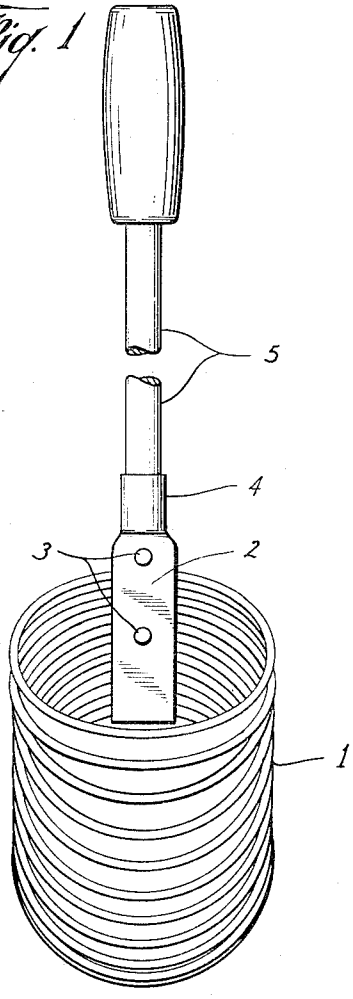


Fig. 2

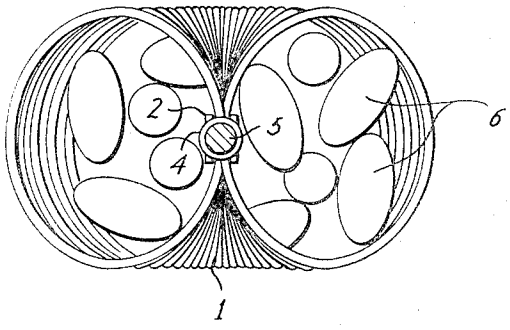
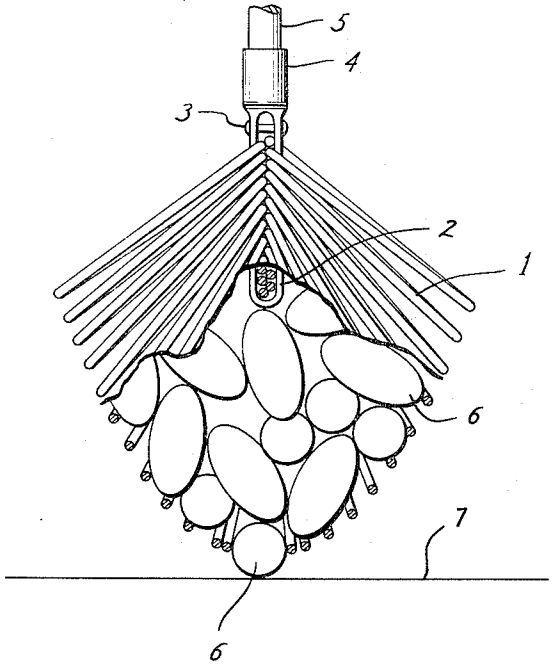


Fig. 3



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PECAN PICKER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 56—328)

The invention relates to a pecan picker, and it concerns more particularly a hand tool for use in picking up pecans.

It is an object of the invention to provide a pecan picker which is unusually effective in use, and which can be manipulated with a minimum of effort.

Another object of the invention is to provide a pecan picker which is of simple, rugged construction, has no moving parts, is inexpensive from the standpoint of its manufacturing cost, and may be used indefinitely.

The invention contemplates a pecan picker having a basket-like structure and which is capable of receiving a quantity of pecans, so that it is necessary to remove the pecans from the device only at convenient intervals.

The pecan picker of the invention is capable of being used for picking up other nuts, as well as pecans, and for picking up similar objects of any kind. The size and shape of the nut or object may vary considerably without affecting the operation of the device. When used for picking pecans, the device is capable of separating a pecan from its outer hull and selectively picking up the pecan only.

The invention will be readily understood by referring to the following description and the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary side elevational view of a pecan picker embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a plan view, partly in section, of the pecan picker shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an elevational view, partly in section, taken at right angles to the view shown in Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawing, the pecan picker of the invention comprises a helical coil of wire 1, which advantageously may be formed of aluminum. The coil 1 is folded upon itself at a point substantially equally distant from its ends, so that the end portions thereof are arranged side by side. The juxtaposed edge portions comprising one side of the coil 1 are arranged in a substantially straight line, and the opposite side of the coil 1 is curved outwardly from the middle toward the ends thereof. The several loops comprising the coil 1 are spaced closely together adjacent the juxtaposed edge portions comprising one side of the coil 1, and are spaced apart adjacent their opposite sides.

The coil 1 is retained in the position described by clamping means comprising an elongated metal strip 2, which is folded upon itself intermediate its ends and is applied to the coil 1 with the opposed surfaces of the strip 2 in engagement with opposite sides of the juxtaposed edge portions of the coil 1. The folded strip 2 is secured in clamping engagement with the coil 1 by fastening means comprising a pair of rivets 3, which are passed thru aligned openings provided therefor in the opposed end portions of the strip 2. The ends of the folded strip 2 extend outwardly beyond the ends of the coil 1, and are rigidly connected to one end of a collar 4. An elongated handle 5, which has one end thereof received in the collar 4 and rigidly connected thereto, is aligned with the folded strip 2 and extends outwardly therefrom.

The arrangement of the coil 1, as above described, is such that a basket-like structure is provided which is capable of receiving a quantity of pecans or other nuts, indicated by the numeral 6, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. In picking up the nuts 6 from the ground, which is designated by the numeral 7, as shown in Fig. 3, the basket-like structure comprising the coil 1 is pressed downwardly against a nut 6, by manipulation of the handle 5. The nut 6 is thus caused to pass between two adjacent loops of the coil 1, which are characterized by their resilience and are capable of being spread apart by the action of the nut 6.

The material of the coil 1 preferably is such that while the adjacent loops of the coil 1 are yieldably retained in their normal spaced relation to each other, so that they are capable of applying pressure to opposite sides of the nut 6, such pressure is insufficient to catapult the nut 6 over the top of the basket-like structure when the pressure is released.

The invention may be modified in various ways without departing from the spirit and scope thereof.

I claim:

1. A pecan picker comprising a basket-like structure consisting of a helical coil of wire folded upon itself at a point substantially equally distant from its ends so that the end portions thereof are arranged side by side, the juxtaposed edge portions comprising one side of the coil being arranged in a substantially straight line and the opposite side of the coil being curved outwardly from the middle toward the ends thereof, the several loops comprising the coil being spaced closely together adjacent the juxtaposed edge portions comprising one side of the coil and being spaced apart adjacent their opposite sides, and an elongated handle connected at one end to the basket-like structure.

2. A pecan picker as described in claim 1 in which the adjacent loops of the coil are characterized by their resilience and are capable of being spread apart, upon pressing the basket-like structure against a nut, by the action of the nut, the material of the coil being such that while the adjacent loops of the coil are yieldably retained in their normal spaced relation to each other, so that they are capable of applying pressure to opposite sides of the nut, such pressure is insufficient to catapult the nut over the top of the basket-like structure when the pressure is released.

3. A pecan picker as described in claim 1 having clamping means acting upon opposite sides of the juxtaposed edge portions of the coil whereby the coil is retained in the position described, and in which the handle is rigidly connected at one end to the clamping means and extends outwardly from the ends of the coil.

4. A pecan picker as described in claim 1 having clamping means comprising an elongated metal strip folded upon itself intermediate its ends and applied to the coil with the opposed surfaces of the strip in engagement with opposite sides of the juxtaposed edge portions of the coil, the ends of the folded strip extending outwardly beyond the ends of the coil, and means connecting one end of the handle to the ends of the strip, the handle being aligned with the folded strip and extending outwardly therefrom.

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