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(54) METHOD OF WRAPPING A FLORAL GROUPING

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Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Continuation of application No. 11/216,521, filed on Aug. 31, 2005, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 10/195,767, filed on Jul. 11, 2002, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 10/013,876, filed on Dec. 11, 2001, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/532,940, filed on Mar. 22, 2000, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 08/767,168, filed on Dec. 16, 1996, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 08/469,033, filed on Jun. 6, 1995, now Pat. No. 5,615,774, which is a continuation of application No. 08/347,611, filed on Nov. 30, 1994, now Pat. No. 5,526,932, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/165,215, filed on Dec. 10, 1993, now Pat. No. 5,373,943, which is a continuation of application No. 08/040,330, filed on Mar. 30, 1993, now Pat. No. 5,311,991, which is a division of application No. 07/906,089, filed on Jun. 29, 1992, now Pat. No. 5,205,108.

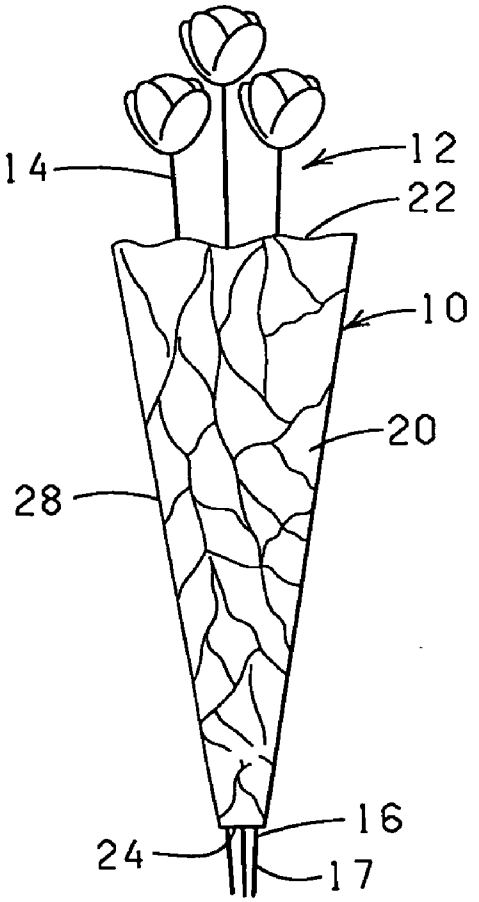
Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A47G 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **47/58.1CF**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of covering a floral grouping by providing a wrap constructed of a flat sheet of material, the wrap having an opening disposed within the sheet of material, and inserting a portion of a floral grouping through the opening in the wrap, and wrapping the wrap about the floral grouping.



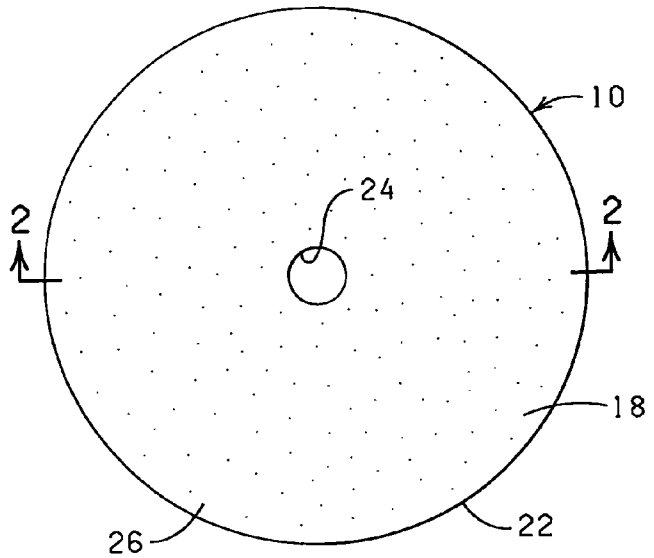


FIG. 1

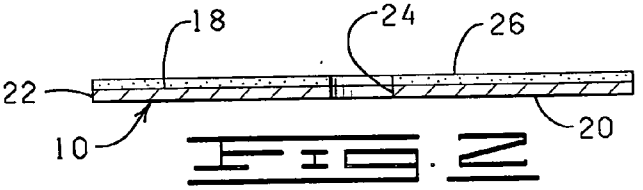


FIG. 2

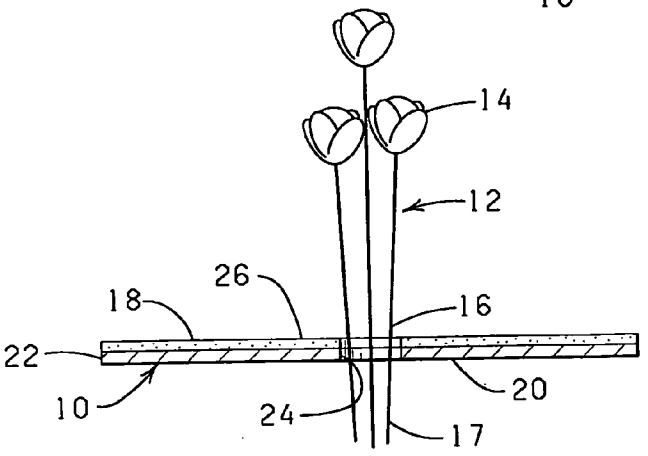


FIG. 3

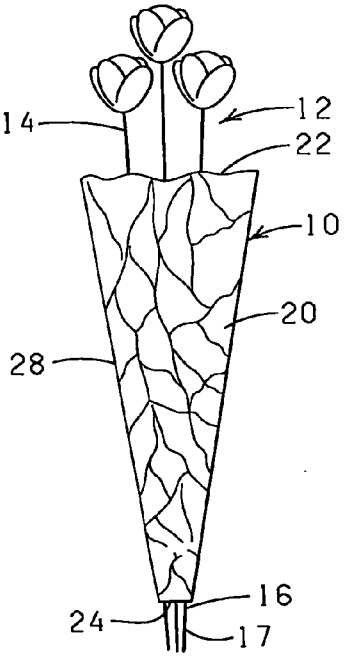


FIG. 4

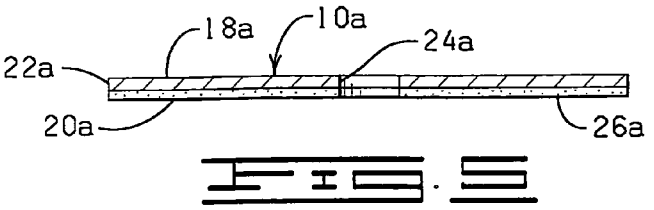


FIG. 5

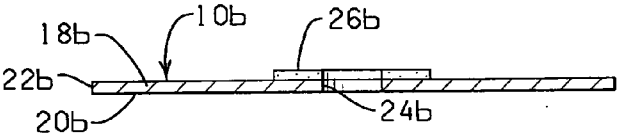


FIG. 6

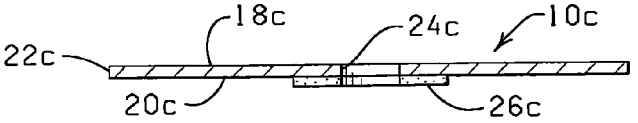


FIG. 7

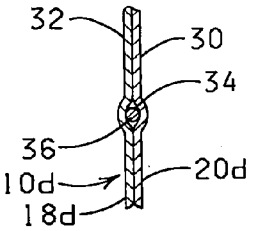


FIG. 8

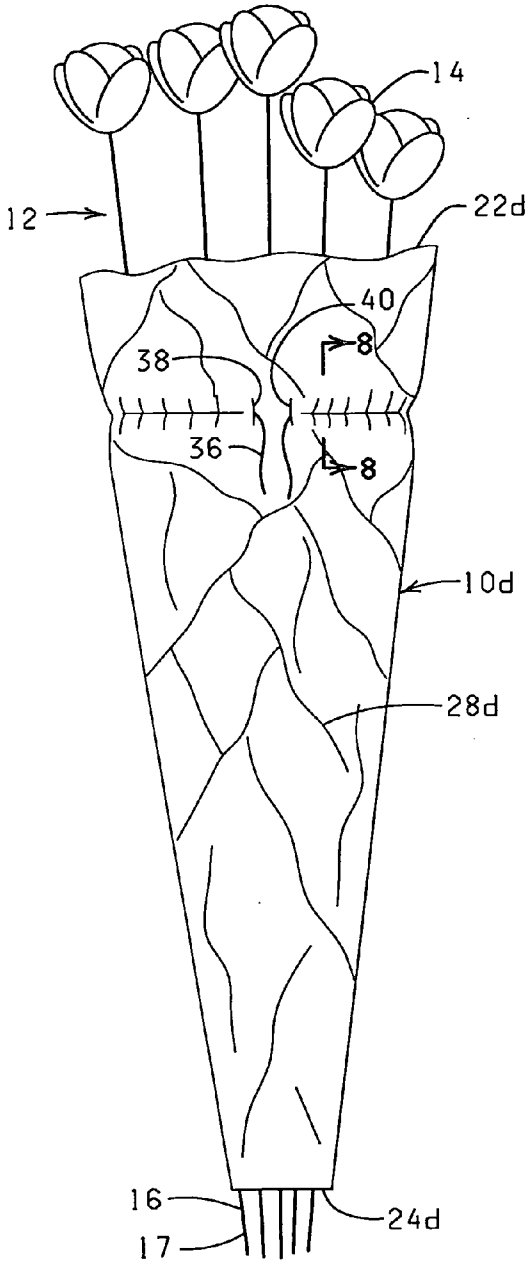


FIG. 9

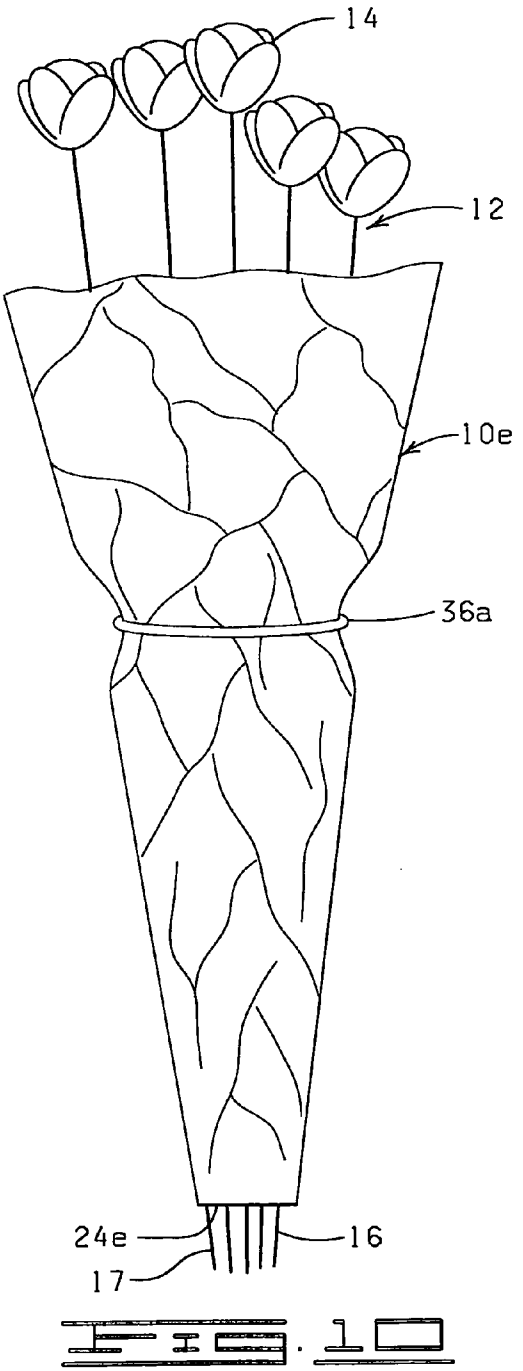


FIG. 10

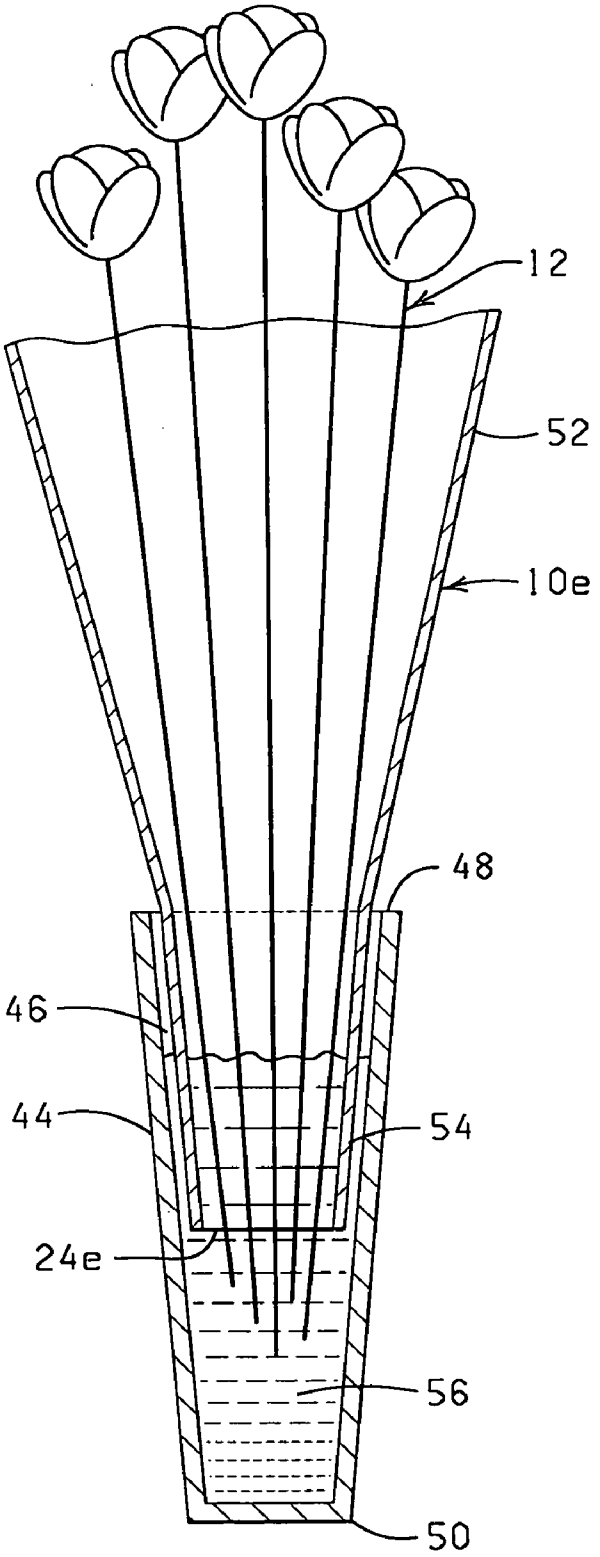


Fig. 11

METHOD OF WRAPPING A FLORAL GROUPING

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 11/216,521, filed Aug. 31, 2005, now abandoned; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Ser. No. 10/195,767, filed Jul. 11, 2002, now abandoned; which is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 10/013,876, filed Dec. 11, 2001, now abandoned; which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 09/532,940, filed Mar. 22, 2000, now abandoned; which is a continuation of Ser. No. 08/767,168, filed Dec. 16, 1996, now abandoned; which is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 08/469,033, filed Jun. 6, 1995, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,615,774; which is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 08/347,611, filed Nov. 30, 1994, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,526,932; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Ser. No. 08/165,215, filed Dec. 10, 1993, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,373,943; which is a continuation of 08/040,330, filed Mar. 30, 1993, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,311,991; which is a division of U.S. Ser. No. 07/906,089, filed Jun. 29, 1992, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,205,108.

[0002] The specifications of each of the above-referenced U.S. patents and patent applications is hereby expressly incorporated herein by reference.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0003] Not Applicable

BACKGROUND

[0004] This present invention relates to a wrap for a floral grouping and a method for wrapping a floral grouping with such wrap and, more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to a wrap having an opening therein and wherein a stem end of the floral grouping is extended through the opening and the wrap then is wrapped about the floral grouping.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] FIG. **1** is a plan view of the upper surface of a wrap constructed in accordance with the present invention.

[0006] FIG. **2** is a cross-sectional view of the wrap of FIG. **1**, taken substantially along the line **2-2** of the FIG. **1**.

[0007] FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view of the wrap of FIGS. **1** and **2** showing a floral grouping having the stem end thereof initially inserted through a opening in the wrap.

[0008] FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the wrap of FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3** showing the wrap formed and wrapped about the floral grouping.

[0009] FIG. **5** is a cross-sectional view of a wrap similar to that shown in FIG. **3**, except the modified wrap shown in FIG. **5** has adhesive on the opposite surface of the wrap as compared to the surface of the wrap having the adhesive thereon shown in FIGS. **1** through **4**.

[0010] FIG. **6** is a cross-sectional view of another modified wrap, similar to FIGS. **2** and **5**, except the wrap shown in FIG. **6** has adhesive on only a portion of the upper surface thereof.

[0011] FIG. **7** is a cross-sectional view of still another modified wrap, similar to FIG. **6**, but the modified wrap shown in FIG. **7** has adhesive on only a portion of the lower surface thereof.

[0012] FIG. **8** is a cross-sectional view of a portion of a wrap constructed exactly like the wrap shown in FIG. **6**, except the modified wrap show in FIG. **8** comprises two sheets of material having a draw string laminated there between.

[0013] FIG. **9** is an elevational view of the wrap of FIG. **8** shown wrapped or formed about a floral grouping.

[0014] FIG. **10** is an elevational view showing a wrap wrapped about a floral grouping and secured thereabout by banding element.

[0015] FIG. **11** is a cross-sectional view of the wrap and floral grouping of FIG. **10** (without a banding element) disposed within a vase.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0016] The present invention relates to a packaging comprising a wrap **10** (FIGS. **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4**) for wrapping a floral grouping **12** (FIGS. **3** and **4**) having an upper or bloom end **14** and a stem end **16**. The wrap **10** has an upper surface **18** (FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3**) and a lower surface **20** (FIGS. **2**, **3** and **4**). The wrap **10** also has an outer periphery **22** (FIGS. **1-4**).

[0017] As shown in FIGS. **1-4**, the wrap **10** is generally circularly shaped. However, the wrap **10** may be rectangularly shaped or square shaped or any other geometric shape.

[0018] The wrap **10** is constructed of a sheet of material or a plurality of sheets of material where the sheets of material are laminated to each other or laid or disposed simply one on top of the other. The wrap **10** may be constructed from a variety of materials. The wrap **10** is constructed from any substantially flat, flexible suitable sheet of material that is capable of being wrapped about the floral grouping **12**. Preferably, the wrap **10** is constructed of treated or untreated paper foil, synthetic or natural polymeric film, natural or synthetic fabric, burlap, cling material, denim or combinations thereof.

[0019] The term synthetic "polymeric film" means a synthetic resin such as a polypropylene as opposed to naturally an occurring resin such as cellophane.

[0020] Synthetic polymeric films are relatively strong and not a subject to tearing (substantially non-tearable), as might be the case with paper or foil. Further, a relatively substantially linearly linked processed synthetic polymeric film is virtually waterproof which may be desirable in many applications such as wrapping a floral grouping.

[0021] The sheet of material may be a shape-sustaining material such as foil, cling wrap, or a metalized polymeric film or paper. A shape-sustaining material is one which substantially holds its shape, after being formed into a particular shape, without additional securing devices or elements.

[0022] A decorative pattern, such as a color and/or an embossed pattern, and/or other decorative surface ornamentation may be applied to the upper surface **18** and/or the lower surface **20** of the wrap **10** or portions thereof including, but not limited to printed design, coatings, colors, flocking or metallic finishes. The wrap **10** also may be totally or partially clear or tinted transparent material.

[0023] The wrap **10** may be constructed of a single layer of material or a plurality of layers of the same or different types of materials. Any thickness of the wrap **10** may be utilized in accordance with the present invention as long as the wrap **10** is wrappable about the floral grouping **12** as described herein. Additionally, an insulating material such as bubble film, preferable as one of two layers, can be utilized in order to provide needed protection for the floral grouping **12**. In preferred embodiment, the wrap **10** is constructed from two polypro-

pylene films (a 20"×15" sheet of Mobil 270 ABW white opaque film laminated to a 20"×15" sheet of Mobil 220 AB clear film) having a thickness in a range of from less than about 1.0 mil to about 30.0 mil, and more preferably to about 10.0 mil.

[0024] "Floral grouping" as used herein means cut fresh flower, artificial flowers, other fresh and/or artificial plants or other floral materials and may include other secondary plants and/or ornamentation which add to the aesthetics of the overall floral grouping **12**. The term "floral grouping" as used herein also is intended to include a single flower or plant.

[0025] "Cling Wrap or Material" as used herein means any material which is capable of connecting to the sheet of material and/or itself upon contacting engagement during the wrapping process and is wrappable about the floral grouping **12** whereby portions of the cling material contactingly engage and connect to other portions of the wrapping material for generally securing the wrap **16** wrapped about at least a portion of the floral grouping **12**. This connecting engagement is preferably temporary in that the wrap **10** may be easily removed without tearing same, i.e., the cling material "clings" to the wrap **10**. A wrapping material which remains securely connected to and about the wrapped item until the wrapping material is torn therefrom.

[0026] The cling material is constructed and treated if necessary, from polyethylene such as Cling Wrap made by Glad®, First Brands Corporation, Danbury, Conn. The thickness of the cling material will, in part, depend upon the thickness of the sheet of material utilized, i.e., generally, the thicker and therefore heavier sheet of material may require a thicker and therefore stronger cling material. The cling material will range in thickness from less than about 0.2 mil to about 10 mil, and preferably less than about 0.5 mil to about 2.5 mil and most preferably from less than about 0.6 mil to about 2 mil. However, any thickness of cling material may be utilized in accordance with the present invention which permits the cling material to function as described herein.

[0027] An opening **24** (FIGS. **1-4**) is formed through a portion of the wrap **10**. Preferably, the opening **24** is formed through a central portion of the wrap **10**. The opening **24** intersects the upper and lower surfaces **18** and **20** of the wrap **10** and is spaced a distance from the outer periphery **22**. The opening **24** may be a slot rather than a circular hole.

[0028] A bonding material **26** which may be an adhesive or cohesive material may be applied to the a portion of the upper surface **18** of the wrap **10**. As shown in FIGS. **1**, **2** and **3**, the bonding material **26** may be applied substantially to the entire upper surface **18** of the wrap **10**. The bonding material **26** can be applied to the wrap **10** in strips or spots and may cover only a portion of the upper and/or lower surfaces **18** and **20**. The thickness of the bonding material **26** is exaggerated in FIGS. **1-3** for illustration purposes.

[0029] In operation, the stem end **16** (having a plurality of stems **17**) of the floral grouping **12** is inserted through the opening **24** to a position wherein a portion of the plurality of stems **17** of the stem end **16** extends through the opening **24** and a distance beyond the lower surface **20** of the wrap **18**. The wrap **10** then is formed about the floral grouping **12** with the upper surface **18** of the wrap **10** being disposed near the floral grouping **12** and the wrap **10** encompassing a substantial portion of the floral grouping **12** while a portion of the plurality of stems **17** of the stem end **16** of the floral grouping **12** remains extended through the opening **24**, as shown in FIG. **4**. In one preferred form, the wrap **10** will substantially encompass the upper or bloom end **14** of the floral grouping **12**, although the upper or bloom end **14** is shown in FIG. **4** extended above the wrap **10** for illustration purposes. It should be noted, that, in some application, the upper or bloom end **14** of the floral grouping **12** may extend upwardly beyond the wrap **10**, as shown in FIG. **4**.

[0030] Preferably, the wrap **10** is tightly folded or wrapped about a portion of the stem end **16** of the floral grouping **12** and portions of the wrap **10** with the bonding material **26** thereon are brought into contact and bonded with other portions of the wrap **10** having the bonding material **26** thereon for cooperating to secure the wrap **10** tightly wrapped about the stem end **16** of the floral grouping **12**. Further, as the wrap **10** is formed about the upper or bloom end **14** of the floral grouping **12**, portions of the wrap **10** having the bonding material **26** thereon are brought into contact and bonded with adjacent portions of the wrap **10** with the bonding material thereon to form bonded overlapping folds **28** to secure the wrap **10** loosely wrapped about the upper or bloom end **14** of the floral grouping **12**. Portions of the bonding material **26** may also are brought into contact to and bonded with portions of the stem end **16** of the floral grouping **12** thereby bonding the wrap **10** to the floral grouping **12** generally about a portion of the stem end **16** for securing the wrap **10** to the floral grouping **12** and for substantially preventing the floral grouping **12** from sliding or moving within or out of the wrap **10**. The overlapping folds **28** are formed by portions of the wrap **10** overlapping each other and adjacent portions of the wrap **10** with the bonding material **26** thereon may be bonded together forming bonded overlapping and adjacent portions.

EMBODIMENT OF FIG. **5**

[0031] Shown in FIG. **5** is a modified wrap **10***a* which is constructed generally like the wrap **10** shown in FIGS. **1-4** and described in detail before, having an upper surface **18***a*, an outer periphery **22***a*, and an opening **24***a*, except a bonding material **26***a* may be disposed on a lower surface **20***a* of the wrap **10***a*. The wrap **10***a* is wrapped about the floral grouping in a manner exactly like that described before with respect to the wrap **10**, except the bonding material **26***a* will not bond to the stem end **16** of the floral grouping **12**. Rather, overlapping folds like the overlapping folds **28** are formed in the wrap **10***a* generally about the stem end **16** and the overlapping folds cooperate to secure the wrap **10***a* tightly wrapped about the stem end **16**.

EMBODIMENT OF FIG. **6**

[0032] Shown in FIG. **6** is a wrap **10***b* which is constructed generally like the wrap **10** shown in FIGS. **1-4**, having an upper surface **18***b* and a lower surface **20***b*, except a bonding material **26***b* on the upper surface **18***b* of the modified wrap **10***b* is disposed adjacent an opening **24***b* with the bonding material **26***b* extending a distance from the opening **24***b*. The wrap **10***b* is wrapped about the floral grouping in a manner exactly like that described before with respect to the wrap **10** with the bonding material **26***b* cooperating to tightly secure the wrap **10***b* about the stem end **16** of the floral grouping **12**, except the overlapping folds formed in the wrap **10***b* extending generally about the upper or bloom end **14** of the floral grouping **12** are not bonded since the bonding material **26***b* does not extend to an outer periphery **22***b*. The bonding material **26***b* extends only from the opening **24***b* a distance out-

wardly toward the outer periphery **22***b* and is spaced an intermediate distance from the outer periphery **22***b*.

EMBODIMENT OF FIG. **7**

[0033] Shown in FIG. **7** is a wrap **10***c* constructed generally like the wrap **10***b* shown in FIG. **6** having an upper surface **18***c*, an outer periphery **22***c*, and an opening **24***c*, except a bonding material **26***c* is disposed on a lower surface **20***c* of the wrap **10***c*.

EMBODIMENT OF FIGS. **8-11**

[0034] Shown in FIGS. **8** and **9** is another modified wrap **10***d*, the wrap **10***d* being only partially shown in FIG. **8**. The wrap **10***d* is constructed generally like the wrap **10***b* (FIG. **6** or the wrap **10***c* (FIG. **7**) having an upper surface **18***d*, and a lower surface **20***d* and an opening **24***d*, except the wrap **10***d* specifically comprises two sheets of material **30** and **32** (FIG. **8**) laminated together with a space **34** being formed between the two sheets of material **30** and **32** near and spaced a distance from an outer periphery **22***d* of the wrap **10***d* and with a banding element **36** extending through the space **34** between the two sheets of material **30** and **32** and with the opposite ends of the banding element **36** extending outwardly through openings **38** and **40** in the wrap **10***d*, as shown in FIG. **9**.

[0035] In this embodiment, the wrap **10***d* may be tightly wrapped about the stem end **16** and secured thereto via a bonding material (not shown) in a manner generally like that described before to form bonded overlapping folds **28***d*. The wrap **10***d* may loosely secured about the upper or bloom end **14** of the floral grouping **12** by pulling the banding element **36** and then securing the banding element **36** after the wrap **10***d* has been loosely gathered and secured abut the upper or bloom end **14** of the floral grouping **12**.

[0036] In FIGS. **8** and **9** the banding element **36** is shown as a drawstring attached to the wrap **10***d*. However, as shown in FIG. **10** a banding element **36***a* may alternatively be a broad or narrow band, a ribbon, a drawstring, a string, a wire, an elastic band, or any other similar device which is disposed about the wrap **10** formed about a portion of the floral grouping **12**.

[0037] The term "banding element" when used herein may also include ties, wires, labels, rubber bands, elastic bands, non-rubber and non-elastic bands, ribbons, springs, clips, twist ties, strings, twines, tapes (including single or double-sided adhesive tapes), staples, collars, plastic strips or tubes, dead fold materials, resilient or stretchy materials, shrink materials, heat shrink materials, chemically shrinkable materials, cold seal materials, sonic sealable materials, vibratory sealable materials, heat sealing lacquers, hot melt materials, welded materials, chemical welding materials, magnetic materials, mechanical or barb-type fastening materials or clamps, curl materials, springs, cling films, or combinations thereof.

[0038] The stem end **16** of the floral grouping **12** extends through an opening **24***e* in a wrap **10***e*. The banding element **36***a* may be attached to the wrap **10***e* or may be separate from the wrap **10***e* and secured thereto only after the wrap **10***e* has been formed about the floral grouping **12**. The banding element **36***a* may alternatively be a piece of heat shrink material, well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, to which heat may be applied to cause the banding element **36***a* to be shrunk about the wrap **10***e* thus causing the wrap **10***e* to be secured about the floral grouping **12**. The banding element **36***a* may be any device capable of being placed about the wrap **10***e* to hold the wrap **10***e* about the floral grouping **12**. Further, more than one banding element **36***a* may be disposed about the wrap **10***e*.

[0039] Shown in FIG. **11** is the wrap **10***e* which has been wrapped about the floral grouping **12** as shown in FIG. **10** except that instead of disposing the banding element **36***a* about the wrap **10***e* to hold the wrap **10***e* about the floral grouping **12**, the floral grouping **12** and a lower portion **54** of the wrap **10***e* disposed thereabout are disposed into an interior space **46** of a vase **44**. The vase **44** has an upper end **48** and a lower end **50**.

[0040] An upper portion **52** of the wrap **10***e* extends above the upper end **48** of the vase **44** and serves as a decorative wrap about the floral grouping **12**. The stem end **16** of the floral grouping **12** preferably but not necessarily extends below the opening **24***e* of the wrap **10***e* into the interior space **46** of the vase **44**. Water **56** or other growing medium may also be disposed within the interior space **46**.

[0041] Changes may be made in the construction in the operation of the various components, elements and assemblies of the wrap described herein and changes may be made in the steps or the sequence of steps of the methods described herein without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of wrapping a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a floral grouping;

providing a wrap comprising a flat sheet of material, the wrap having an upper surface, a lower surface, an outer periphery and an opening in the wrap spaced a distance inwardly from the outer periphery;

inserting a portion of the floral grouping into the opening in the wrap wherein the portion of the floral grouping extends a distance from the lower surface of the wrap;

forming the wrap about the floral grouping to encompass at least a portion of an upper end of the floral grouping wherein a plurality of overlapping folds are formed in the wrap, and wherein the portion the floral grouping remains extended a distance from the opening of the wrap; and

securing the wrap about the floral grouping by disposing a banding element about a portion of the wrap, wherein the banding element is selected from the group consisting of ties, wires, labels, rubber bands, elastic bands, non-rubber bands, non-elastic bands, ribbons, springs, clips, twist ties, strings, twines, tapes, staples, collars, plastic strips, plastic tubes, dead fold materials, resilient or stretchy materials, shrink materials, heat shrink materials, chemically shrinkable materials, cold seal materials, sonic sealable materials, vibratory sealable materials, heat sealing lacquers, hot melt materials, welded materials, chemical welding materials, magnetic materials, mechanical or barb-type fastening materials or clamps, curl materials, springs, cling films, and combinations thereof.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the wrap is tightly formed about a portion of the floral grouping.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein the wrap is loosely formed about the upper end of the floral grouping.

4. The method of claim **1**, wherein the opening is positioned in a substantially central portion of the wrap.

5. The method of claim **1**, wherein the flat sheet of material used to construct the wrap is constructed of material selected from the group consisting of treated paper, untreated paper, foil, synthetic polymeric film, natural polymeric film, natural fabric, synthetic fabric, burlap, denim, cling material, a shape-sustaining material, and combinations thereof.

* * * * *