Aug. 14, 1962 A. L. BOETTICHER ET AL 3,048,942

CONTAINER FOR FLOWERS AND THE LIKE

Filed Sept. 3, 1958

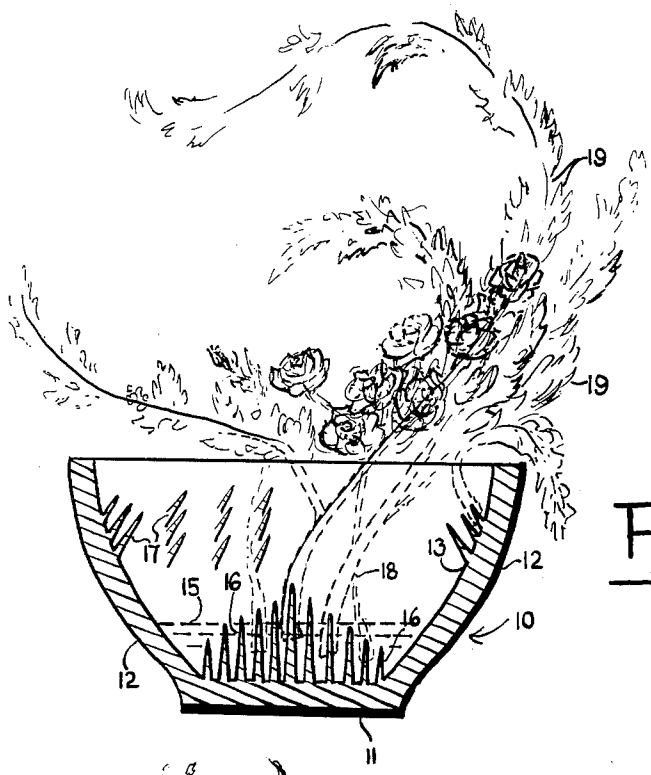


Fig. 1.

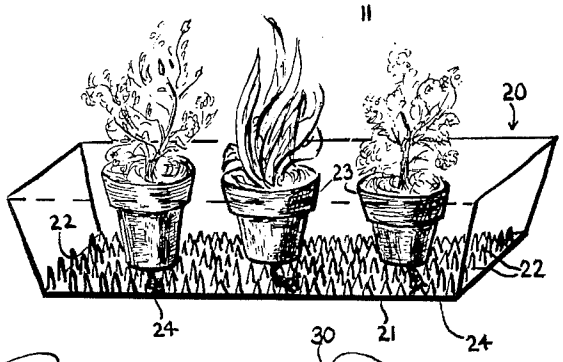


Fig. 2.

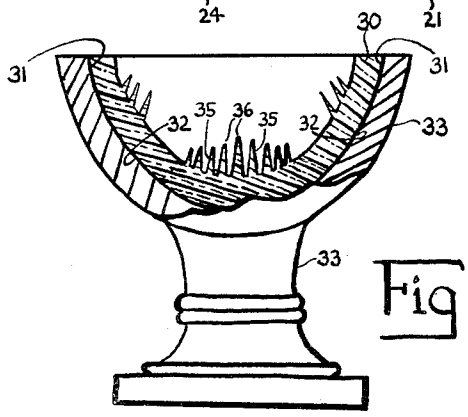


Fig. 3.

INVENTORS.
Audrey L. Boetticher
Albert A. Boetticher
BY Walter D. Ames
ATTORNEY

United States Patent Office 3,048,942
Patented Aug. 14, 1962

3,048,942

CONTAINER FOR FLOWERS AND THE LIKE

Audrey L. Boetticher and Albert A. Boetticher, both of 2665 Sheldon Place, Oceanside, N.Y.

Filed Sept. 3, 1958, Ser. No. 758,761
2 Claims. (Cl. 47—41)

This invention relates to containers which are substantially impervious to water, and more particularly, to such containers which are capable of retaining therein flowers and the like having their stems at least partially immersed in water.

As the art of flower arrangement has developed, the design and construction of containers adapted to permit the arranger to give full scope to his creative talents has been hard pressed to progress at the same pace. In response to a definite need, containers have been produced which carry means therein to permit individual flowers to be retained in the container and spaced from the container walls in substantially upright position. The arranger is thereby freed from the necessity of supporting flowers against the walls of the container or against the stems of adjacent flowers.

Most useful among such containers have been those which contain pinholders, which conventionally consist of groups of closely spaced, axially aligned shafts of metal imbedded in a block of lead or other heavy material. The shafts terminate in sharp points, and the stems of flowers to be supported in the container are axially impaled on the points and the pins forced a suitable distance within the stems. A pinholder, being weighted, is permitted to rest freely on the bottom of a container, and is generally immersed in water.

Despite advantageous aspects of their employment, there are serious disadvantages to the use of pinholders in flower arrangement. A major disadvantage is the cost of the pinholder. Pinholders are normally purchased in the form of blocks that present but a few square inches of impaling surface. To line the entire bottom of a container of even moderate dimensions with a series of pinholders is prohibitively expensive for commercial application, since many floral arrangements professionally supplied for ceremonies and the like are not expected to be recovered. Because of this prospective loss, containers for these arrangements must be inexpensive, and pinholders are not used.

Another disadvantage of pinholders is the fact that the pins therein are conventionally composed of metal and are sharply pointed. Thus they are impractical for utilization in the instruction of children or the physically or mentally handicapped in flower arrangement, an art of great value as a physical therapy. In addition, a pin holder commonly has a flat bottom, making the use of the pinholder impossible in a container having a curved bottom.

Also, pinholders, being positioned by the force of gravity, are necessarily located only on the bottom of the container, and will, without additional support, slide if the container is angularly displaced. The floral arrangement will be disrupted if the pinholder changes its position.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide an improved container for flowers and the like in which individual flower stems may be maintained in substantially vertical position therein spaced from and unsupported by side walls of the container and other stems.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an improved container for flowers and the like in which flowers may be maintained in substantially upright position when the bottom of the container is curvilinear.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an improved container ideally suited for use as a

physical therapy aid for teaching the art of floral arrangement.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an improved container for flowers and the like in which flowers may be maintained in spaced relation from the walls of the container when the container is angularly displaced.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide an improved container for flowers and the like in which the flowers may be maintained in spaced relation from the walls of the container and which will be substantially less expensive to manufacture than other containers which have that purpose.

A container according to this invention has an inner surface with retaining portions positioned to hold water within the container. Other than that requisite the shape of the container may vary. A plurality of pin members project outwardly from at least one of the water-retaining portions, such pin members being spaced along that portion and being integral with the body of the container.

The pin members may, for example, extend from the bottom of the container only, or from the bottom and the side walls of the container. As the pins are integral with the container body, they may extend outwardly from a plane or curvilinear surface. Generally, the body of the container will be formed from a moldable material impervious to water, such as a thermoplastic resin, and the container body and the pin members will be formed in the same molding process.

Unlike the pin of a pinholder, the pins according to the present invention may be tapered throughout their length, terminating in a blunt point.

These and other objects, features and advantages of this invention will become more apparent from the following, detailed description of illustrated embodiments of the invention. The detailed description refers to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a vertical section of one embodiment of a container according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the container utilized as a window box, the front wall of the container having been removed, and

FIG. 3 is a front elevation, partly cut away, of another embodiment of the container used as a liner for a conventional container.

The sectional view of FIG. 1 shows a container **10**, which has a bottom **11** and a continuous, curvilinear wall **12**. The inner surface **13** of the container **10** is generally cup-shaped to retain a quantity of water **15** in the container.

Pin members **16** are arranged in spaced relation over the entire bottom **11** of the container **10**. While such distribution is not readily apparent from the sectional view of FIG. 1 alone, the distribution over the bottom **11** is like that shown in FIG. 2. In addition, the wall **12** contains pin members **17**, which may be spaced around the wall in aligned rows, as illustrated in FIG. 1, or arranged in such designs as may be found desirable.

It will be seen that pin members **16** and **17** are integral with the bottom **11** and the wall **12**, respectively. These pin members form unitary extensions of the container **10**, and are composed of the same material as the container. In the embodiment of FIG. 1, pin members **16** are shown in an arrangement whereby those pin members nearest the center of the bottom **11** are of greater length and mean diameter than those farther from the center. Such an arrangement of pin members is designed so that the larger and heavier stems of the flowers **19** may be impaled on the longer, wider pin members **16**, and other size pin members will be available for smaller stems. This is but one satisfactory arrangement of pin members **16**.

Stems 18 of flowers 19 also may be impaled on wall pin members 17. Pin members 17 can be used to axially impale stems too short to protrude from the container 10 if impaled on bottom pin members 16. If desired, the level of the water 15 may be raised to cover some or all of the pin members 17. Thus it will be seen that a satisfactory distribution of pin members 16 and 17 is one which will give the arranger wide latitude in composing a floral display and enable the arranger to use flowers having stems of varying lengths and diameters.

Another use of the container according to the present invention is seen in FIG. 2. The container 20 has a bottom 21, protruding from the upper surface of which are pin members 22 of substantially uniform length. Flower pots 23 fed by wicks 24, each of which extends through the bottom of a pot, rest on the pin members 22. The wicks 24 absorb water from the bottom 21 of the container 20, the pin members 22 permitting air to circulate under the pots 23. Such a positioning of pots 23 is particularly effective if the pots 23 are to be left unattended for a substantial period of time. Wick-fed plants will absorb only such water as they require, yet according to the embodiment of FIG. 2, have a large, potential water supply.

The container 20 may also be used to root cuttings, such as pathos vine, coleus, English ivy and philodendron, which require only water. It is also adapted to be used for growing bulbs, which require but should not be submerged in water. Examples of such bulbs are hyacinths, Chinese sacred lilies and autumn crocuses.

FIG. 3 illustrates a container according to the present invention utilized as a liner for another container. The container 30 is so formed that the outer surface 31 thereof is generally hemispherical and fits snugly against the inner surface 32 of the pedestal container 33. In this position the container 30, which is substantially impervious to liquids, serves to hold water which would otherwise come in contact with the pedestal container 33, while container 30 is hidden from many angles of view when in operative position.

It is often desirable to employ a liner for pedestal and other types of containers which, for example, may be composed of wood, alabaster or other material not suited to prolonged contact with water. Silver containers, which become discolored on lengthy contact with water, are ideally adapted to use with such a liner.

The pin members 35 of FIG. 3 are integral with the container 30. Pin members 35 are, like pin members 16,

tapered from their broadest diameter at the base of the pin members, to their narrowest diameter at their outer extremities or tips 36. Tips 36, however, are blunted, so that the container 30 may be used in physical therapy for the treatment of those whose mental or physical affliction make it impossible for them to work with sharp, pointed pinholders.

A container according to any of the illustrated embodiments is preferably formed in one piece in a single molding operation, and is therefore relatively economical to manufacture compared with the cost of conventional water containers and the pinholders they employ. With the advent of the present invention commercial florists may for the first time utilize the advantages of pin members in preparing floral arrangements for occasions where the containers and flowers will not be recoverable.

While preferred embodiments of the invention have been described hereinbefore and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, it will be apparent that the novel features of the invention may be embodied in other forms of containers. It is desired, therefore, that the invention be limited only by the scope of the following appended claims.

We claim:

1. A container for flowers and the like, comprising a body formed from a moldable material and having a bottom and a wall surrounding and extending upwardly from said bottom to an upper margin of said wall, and a plurality of pin members formed from the same moldable material as said body and suitable for impaling the stems of flowers thereon, said pin members being unitary with said body and projecting within said body upwardly from said bottom and inwardly and upwardly from said wall to locations below said wall upper margin.

2. A container as claimed in claim 1, in which at least one of said pin members is of greater mean diameter and length than others of said pin members.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

980,565	Sanborn	Jan. 3, 1911
1,596,716	Clarke	Aug. 17, 1926
1,868,802	Oaki	July 26, 1932

FOREIGN PATENTS

698,531	Great Britain	Oct. 14, 1953
709,356	Great Britain	May 19, 1954