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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TREE GUARD

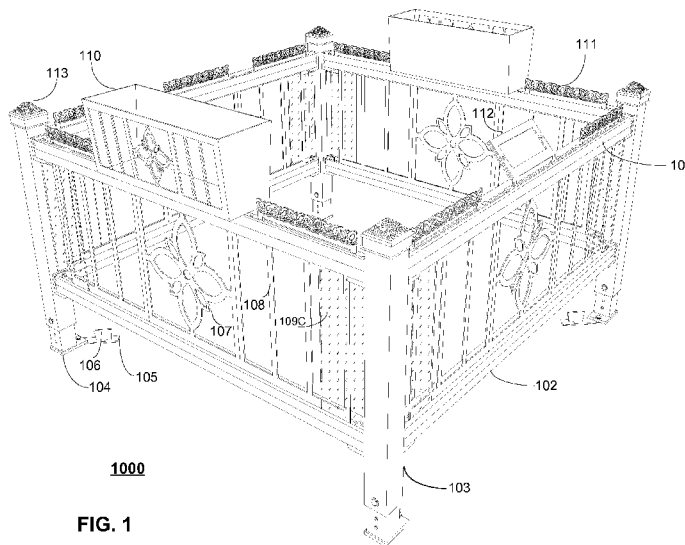


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Various embodiments related to a tree guard are disclosed. One embodiment provides a modular tree guard assembly. Various other embodiments disclosed include one or more of the following: a multi-purpose top rail unit facilitating flexible installation of various side panel units and top rail accessories; modular side panel units including decorative units and urine guard units; corner and other post units; and various adjustable foot units. In one embodiment, a sign holder unit of the tree guard assembly is provided with different tamper proof bolts than are other elements of the assembly such that control over signage on the tree guard may be effectively given to a different entity than an entity with control over assembly of the rest of the tree guard unit. Various other embodiments related to tree guards are disclosed.





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- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER***A01G 9/02(2006.01)i, A01G 13/00(2006.01)i, A01G 9/00(2006.01)i, E04H 17/00(2006.01)i*

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A01G 9/02; A01G 13/00; A01G 13/02; A01G 13/04; A01G 7/00; A01G 17/04

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) &amp; Keywords:tree guard system,anchoring subsystem,post,anchor plate,top rail,modular tree guard,tamper proof tree guard

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 05394645 A (WILSON; ROGER A.) 07 March 1995 See claim 1; column 6 lines 47-52; figures 1, 2	1-21,39-49
A	WO 2010-022905 A1 (UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER et al.) 04 March 2010 See figure 1; page 6 lines 13-17	1-21,39-49
A	JP 04-311323 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS LTD) 04 November 1992 See abstract	22-38,50-55
A	US 06018910 A (MARKS; ALAN C.) 01 February 2000 See claim 1	22-38,50-55
A	US 2009-0084033 A1 (DUNCAN JUNE et al.) 02 April 2009 See claim 1	1-55

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International application No.

**PCT/US2012/031973**

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 05394645 A	07.03.1995	None	
WO 2010-022905 A1	04.03.2010	GB 0815460 D0	01.10.2008
JP 04-311323 A	04.11.1992	None	
US 06018910 A	01.02.2000	None	
US 2009-0084033 A1	02.04.2009	None	