No. 831,086. PATENTED SEPT. 18, 1906.

W. MAXFIELD.

ARTIFICIAL CALYX.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 12, 1906.

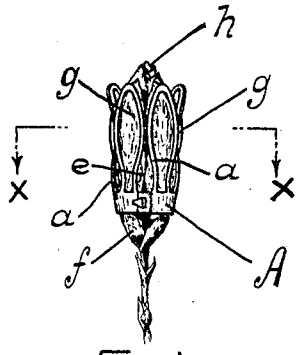


FIG. 1.

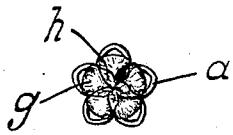


FIG. 2.

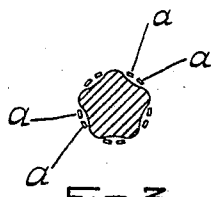


FIG. 3.

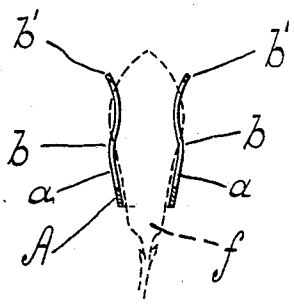


FIG. 4.

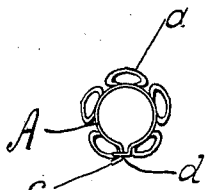


FIG. 5.

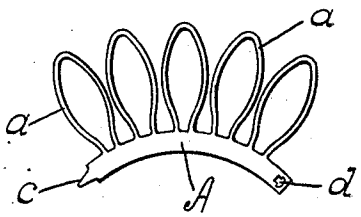


FIG. 6.

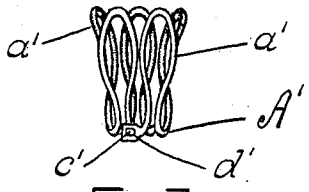


FIG. 7.

WITNESSES.

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ARTIFICIAL CALYX.

No. 831,086. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 18, 1906.

Application filed July 12, 1906. Serial No. 325,836.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM MAXFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Barrington, in the county of Bristol and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Artificial Calyxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to a new article of manufacture intended for use upon the calyxes of certain buds, particularly pinks.

Great loss is occasioned florists by the tendency of pink-buds to split pending their flowering period. A single split in the calyx renders the resulting flower comparatively valueless for commercial purposes.

The object of my invention is to prevent the splitting referred to; and said invention consists in forming an artificial calyx to be applied to the bud during its growth.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figures 1 and 2 are side and top plan elevations, respectively, of my novel calyx applied to a pink-bud; Fig. 3, a transverse section of the same on line $x\,x$ of Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a vertical transverse central section of my calyx, the inclosed bud being shown in broken lines; Fig. 5, a bottom plan view of my calyx; Fig. 6, a plan view of the blank from which the same is formed, and Fig. 7 a side elevation of a modified form of my calyx.

Like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the views.

My device is preferably formed by stamping or cutting from a thin sheet of metal a cup-shaped member comprising a band or ring A, from which upwardly extend a plurality of looped arms *a a*. Each arm is slightly outwardly swelled midway its length, as at *b*, and has its free end outwardly flared, as at *b'*. (Best shown in Fig. 4.) The arms are broadest intermediate their length. The band A is provided with any convenient fastening means. The preferred form consists of a tongue *c* upon one end of the band, which is adapted to enter a slot *d* in the adjacent opposite end thereof and be folded thereon. It is not essential that my calyx should be made from flat stock. Obviously it may be constructed from a single continuous piece of wire bent to form the arms *a'*, rising from an integral band A', the adjacent ends of the band being flattened to facilitate the formation of the tongue *c'* and slot *d'*.

My artificial calyx is operated as follows: In unfastened condition it is pushed over the calyx *e* of the bud *f* from below and the tongue *c* engaged in the slot *d*. Thus the base of the bud is embraced by the band A, while each arm *a* embraces one of the sepals *g* of the calyx, gently retaining the same in natural upright position and preventing the formation of any split between the sepals. The outward flare of the free ends of the arms permits free growth of the petals *h* horizontally. The spring-pressure of the arms is slight, and the arms are comparatively yielding, so as not to impede the growth of the flower. After the flower has begun to blow the artificial calyx is removed, as the danger of splitting thereupon ceases.

What I claim is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, an artificial calyx, the same comprising a band, and a plurality of arms radiating from the band.

2. As a new article of manufacture, an artificial calyx, the same comprising a band, and a plurality of spring-arms upon the band.

3. As a new article of manufacture, an artificial calyx, the same comprising a band, and means for engaging the ends of the same, and upwardly-directed arms upon the band.

4. As a new article of manufacture, an artificial calyx, the same comprising a band and a plurality of looped arms upon the band.

5. As a new article of manufacture, an artificial calyx, the same comprising a band, and a plurality of yielding arms upon the band adapted to embrace the calyx of a bud.

6. As a new article of manufacture, an artificial calyx, the same comprising a band, and a plurality of upwardly-directed yielding arms upon the band having their free ends outwardly inclined.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM MAXFIELD.

Witnesses:

HORATIO E. BELLOWS,

WILLIAM C. DIMOND.