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(54) Title: ENHANCED FUNGAL SUBSTRATE AND CARRIER

(57) Abstract: A composition and method for the formulation of ingredients for a medium for growing fungi and the like. The invention provides for a formulation of a growing medium including oat hulls for the cultivating of mushroom mycelium.



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AMENDED CLAIMS

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- 5 1. A growing medium to improve the growth of mushrooms or other fungi comprising:
an effective amount of oat hulls, wherein the oat hulls are inoculated with fungi.
2. The growing medium of claim 1, wherein the oat hulls are in the range of 1-55 % of the
total weight of the growing medium.
3. The growing medium of claim 2, wherein the oat hulls are in the range of 15-20% of the
10 total weight of the growing medium.
4. The growing medium of claim 1, further comprising a non-nutritive particulate material.
5. The growing medium of claim 4 wherein, the non-nutritive particulate material comprises
at least one non-nutritive particulate material selected from the group consisting of
vermiculite, peat moss, and coir fiber.
- 15 6. The growing medium of claim 1, further comprising a nitrogenous nutrient.
7. The growing medium of claim 6, wherein the nitrogenous nutrient comprises at least one
nitrogenous nutrient selected from the group consisting of wheat bran, oat bran, rice bran
and soy powder.
8. The growing medium of claim 1, further comprising a calcium salt.
- 20 9. The growing medium of claim 8, wherein the calcium salt comprises at least one calcium
salt selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate and calcium sulfate.
10. The growing medium of claim 1, further comprising water.

11. The growing medium of claim 1, further comprising a non-nutritive particulate material; a nitrogenous nutrient; a calcium salt; and water.
12. A method of growing mushrooms or other fungi, comprising the steps of:
- providing a nutritive layer;
- 5 providing an effective amount of oat hulls;
- inoculating the oat hulls with mushroom mycelium to form a substrate spawn;
- adding the substrate spawn to the nutritive layer; and
- incubating the composition to produce mushrooms.
13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of adding a casing layer including a casing spawn formed from at least an effective amount of oat hulls.
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14. A growing medium that promotes rapid colonization of a mushroom crop by shortening spawn run duration to about 10 days from the standard 13 to 16 days.
15. The method of claim 12, further comprising the use of the invention as the primary nutritive medium for the production of mushrooms.
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AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)