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W. R. SCHINDLER

1,851,331

PLANT PROTECTOR

Filed Oct. 27, 1930

Fig. 1

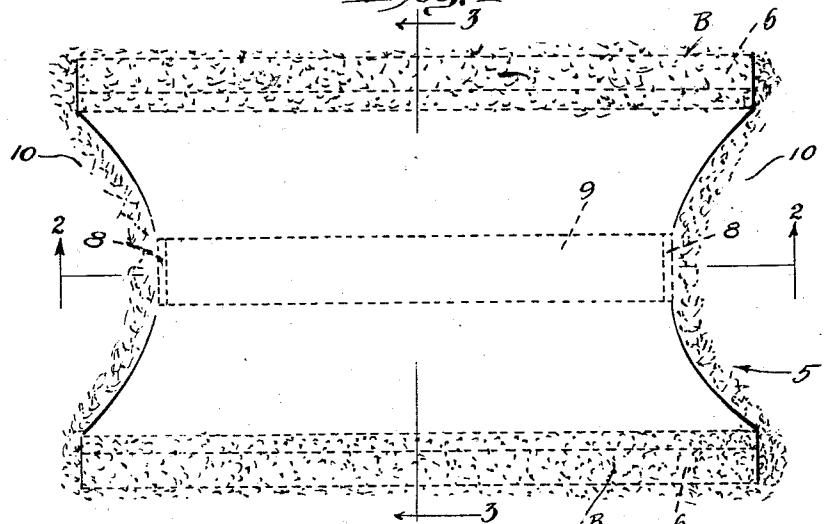


Fig. 2

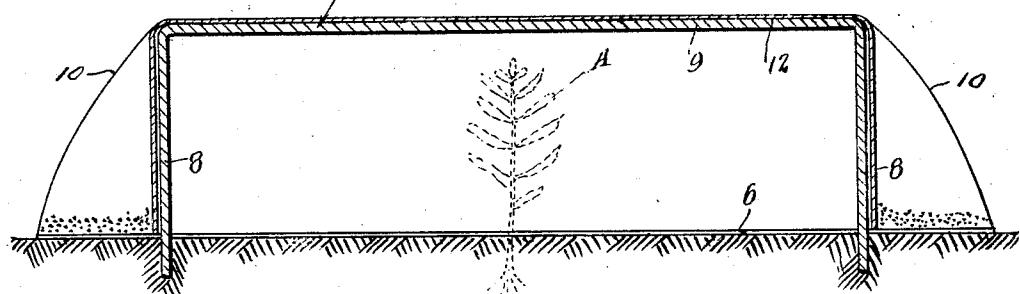
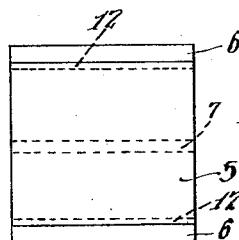
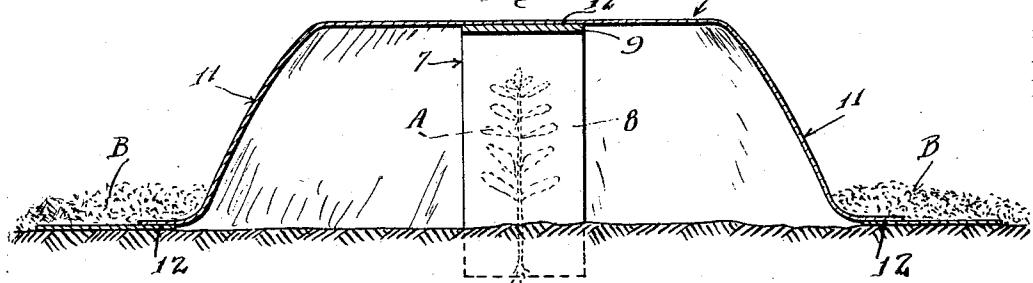


Fig. 3



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PLANT PROTECTOR

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This invention relates to plant protectors, sometimes termed "hot caps". The true hot cap, however, is of conoidal or other hollow shape, whereas the present invention is constructed in a flat form and is bowed upwardly, when placed in position over the plant or seed, to protect the same.

An important object of the invention is inexpensiveness of construction, since the competitive prices of vegetables is largely dependent upon the cost of protectors, or hot caps, used in the early stages of growth of such vegetables.

Another important object is the ease with which large numbers of protectors may be stored and handled and freedom from liability to damage in such storing and handling.

Another important object is to utilize several kinds of paper in the construction, one having a relatively high degree of permeability to light, and the other kind, or kinds, being sufficiently heavy to afford proper support for the more light-permeable paper.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the subjoined detailed description.

The accompanying drawings illustrate the invention:

Figure 1 is a plan view of a plant protector constructed in accordance with the provisions of this invention as it appears when in use.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section on the line indicated by 2-2, Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a vertical section on the line indicated by 3-3, Fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a reduced plan view of the protector in its flat condition.

Referring to the drawings, the main body 5 of the protector is constructed of paper that is waxed, or is otherwise made suitable for a high degree of permeability to light. In this instance, the body 5 is substantially square and two of its opposite margins are affixed by an adhesive or by other suitable means to anchor strips 6 which are relatively narrow strips of the same length as the margins of the body 5, to which they are affixed.

Parallel to the anchor strips 6 and substantially midway between them a supporting strip 7 is affixed by a suitable adhesive

to the body 5. End portions 8 of the strip 7 are free from the body 5 and only the intermediate portion 9 of the strip 7 is secured to the body 5. In this instance, the strip 7 is of a length corresponding to the length of that portion of the body to which the strip 7 is attached. When it is desired to use the plant protector, the end portions 8 will be bent at substantially right angles to the strip portion 9 so as to form legs for supporting the body in the form shown in Fig. 2.

In the present instance, I prefer to construct the strips 6 of relatively heavy brown paper and the strip 7 of a slightly heavier grade of paper or cardboard. It is essential that the strip 7 be of relatively heavy material so as to properly support the body 5.

The construction of the invention will be readily understood from the foregoing, and the operation thereof is as follows:

The gardener will first bend the legs 8 away from the body 5 so that they extend substantially at right angles to the strip portion 9 and he will then force the lower ends of the legs 8 into the soil at opposite sides of the place occupied by the plant or seed that is to be protected. In this instance, a plant is indicated at A. Generally the protectors are placed over the seed or very small plant as soon as the plant has been set out. The gardener then holds down the strips 6 and throws a little soil onto them, as indicated at B, to hold them in place, thus securely anchoring the body 5 against being blown aside by the wind. The strips 6 are made of a paper that is sufficiently durable to withstand the moisture in the soil so that rotting of the paper will not take place during the time it is desired that the plant be protected.

After the strips 6 have been secured in the manner mentioned above, the body end portions 10, that are free from the legs 8, will be pressed down by the gardener, somewhat as indicated in Fig. 2, and a slight amount of soil banked against the lower margins of the portions 10 so as to hold the said portions 10 folded-in as shown. The plant is now completely enclosed and a large measure of sunlight can pass through the body 5 to the soil beneath the protector.

While the plant is growing beneath the protector, it is desirable that the soil around it be cultivated, and a very important advantage of the invention will now be apparent, since to gain access to the soil around the plant, all that is necessary for the gardener to do is to remove the soil from one of the anchor strips 6 and raise that portion 11, to which said anchor strip is attached and which constitutes one side of the protector when in place over the plant. After he has finished cultivating the soil around the plant, the gardener lowers the portion 11 and throws the soil back onto the anchor strip. This may be repeated as often as required.

The waxed paper withstands moisture, such as fog or dew, for a sufficient length of time to enable the plant to mature to a size where it no longer requires protection, and when it reaches such size the protector will be removed.

It is to be noted that the adhesive, indicated at 12, for fastening the strips 6, 7 to the body 5, is protected against moisture by reason of said strips being secured to what is the under-face of the body 5 when the protector is in use.

I claim:

1. A plant protector comprising a body of paper having a relatively high degree of permeability to light, anchor strips of relatively heavy paper secured to two opposite margins of the body, and a supporting strip below the body having its intermediate portion secured to the body and its end portions free from said body so that said end portions may be bent away from the body to form supporting legs for the body.

2. A plant protector comprising a body of paper having a relatively high degree of permeability to light, and a supporting strip therebelow having its intermediate portion secured to the body and its end portions free from said body so that said end portions may be bent away from the body to form supporting legs for the body.

3. A plant protector comprising a sheet of thin material and a supporting strip therefor in contact over a substantial portion of its intermediate length with the underside of said sheet, the ends of said strip being free and at least portions of the strip being of flexible material whereby said ends can be bent down to form supporting legs for the intermediate portion and for said sheet.

4. As an article of manufacture a plant protector comprising a rectangular sheet of thin translucent paper having border strips of paper secured to two opposite edges thereof, said border strips being of material more resistant to decomposition in the presence of moisture than the thin translucent paper forming the main body of said sheet.

Signed at Los Angeles, California, this 22d day of October, 1930.

WALTER R. SCHINDLER.