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(71) Applicant
Allan Marcus Hall
Brick Kiln Cottage, Mill Lane, Weybread, Diss,
Norfolk, IP21 5RS

(72) Inventor
Allan Marcus Hall

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
Haseltine Lake & Co
Hazlitt House, 28 Southampton Buildings,
Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1AT

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A1E AKX BH K22

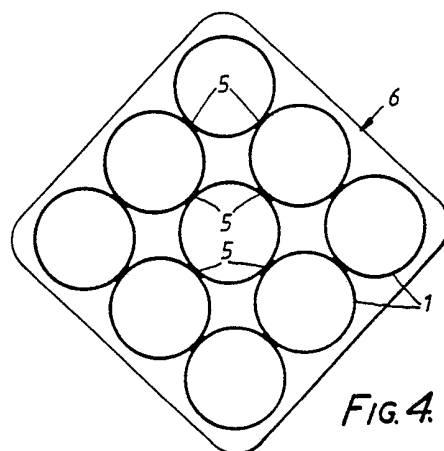
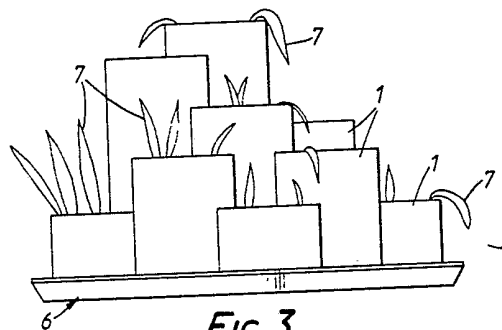
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(58) Field of search
A1E
Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class
A01G

(54) Gardening aid

(57) A plurality of cylinders 1 are arranged in substantially longitudinally parallel relationship with one another, each cylinder 1 being connected (5) to at least one laterally adjoining or adjacent cylinder 1. The cylinders 1 may contain soil, compost or flower pots and may be of varying lengths, cross-sectional shapes and sizes and colours. The inter-connections may be rigid or flexible. e.g. interengaging ribs and grooves, split pins, spring clips, lengths of string or the like, connectors apertured or recessed to receive the cylinders, adhesive. The cylinders may be arranged to provide a lawnedging.



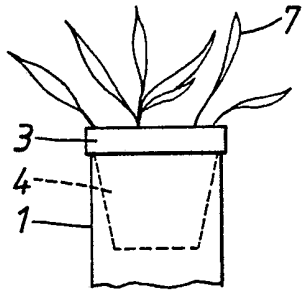


FIG. 1A.

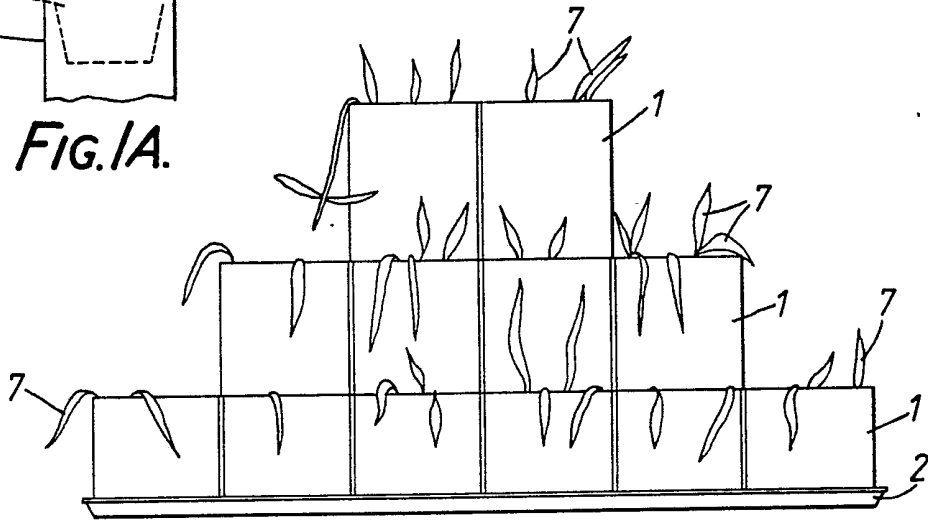


FIG. 1.

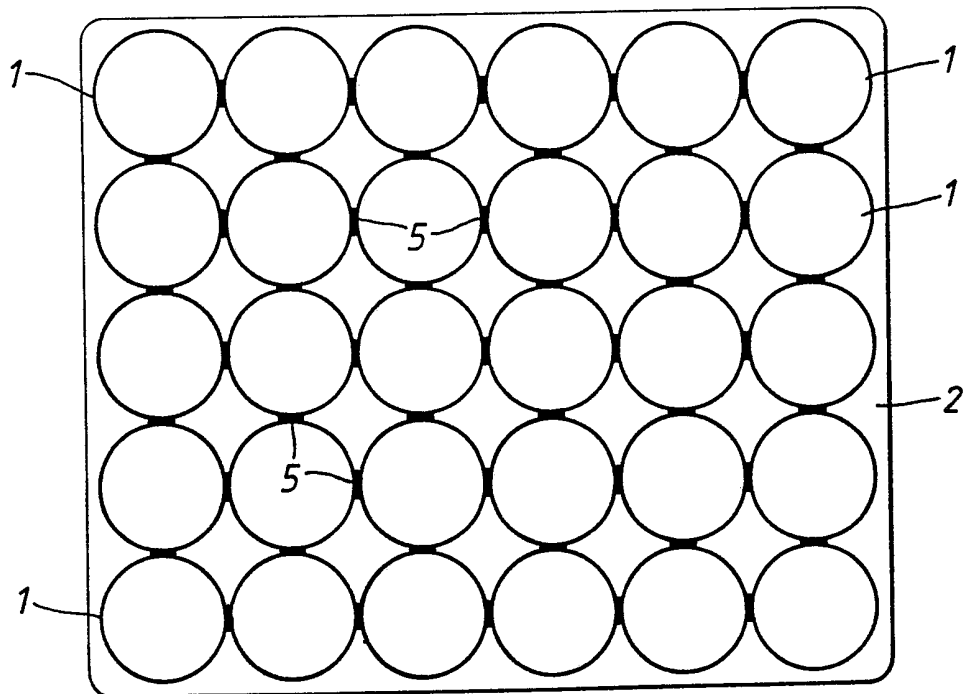


FIG. 2.

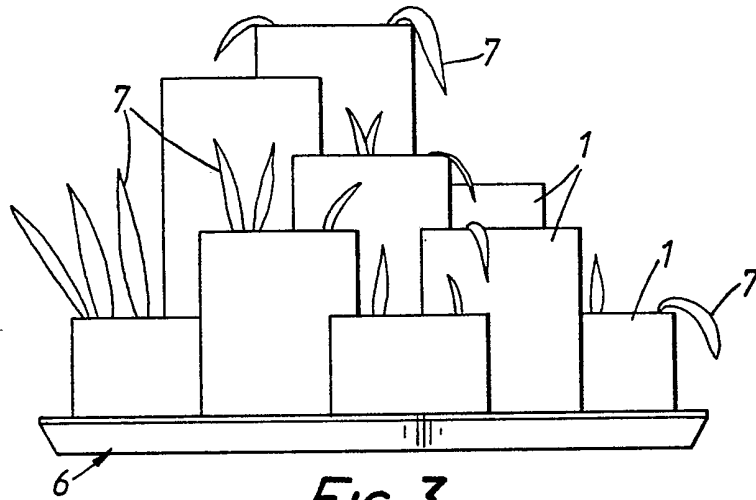


FIG. 3.

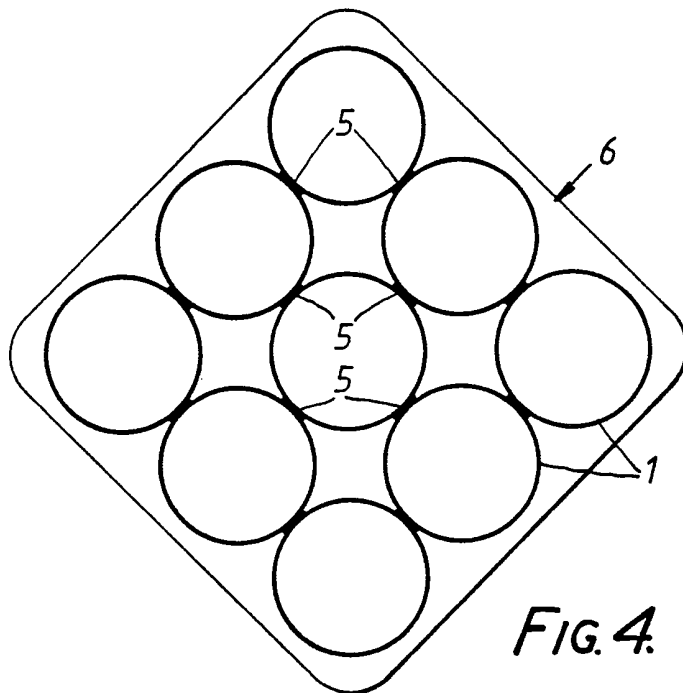


FIG. 4.

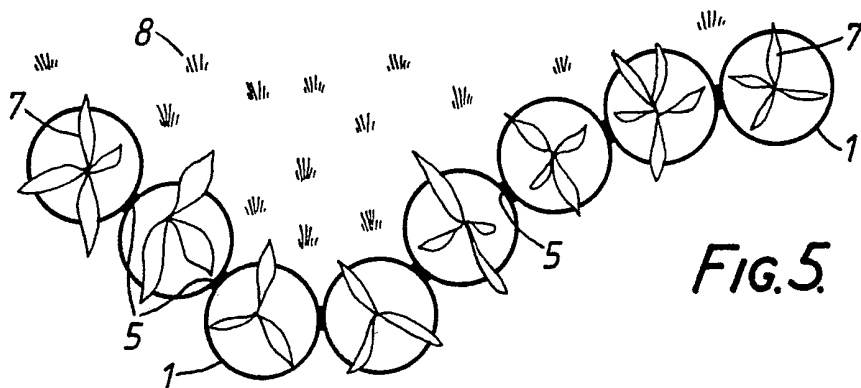


FIG. 5.

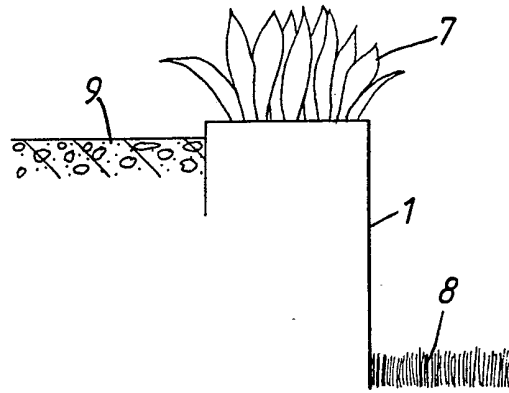


FIG. 6.

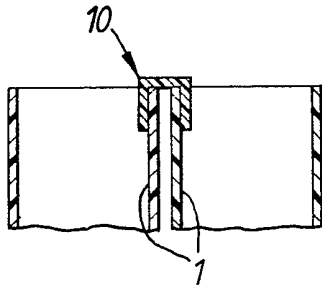


FIG. 7A.

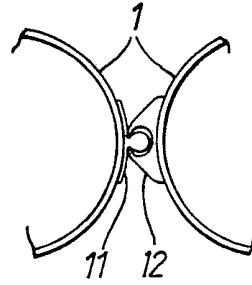


FIG. 7B.

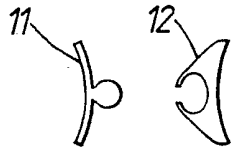


FIG. 7C.

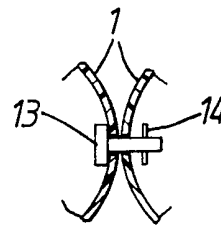


FIG. 7D.

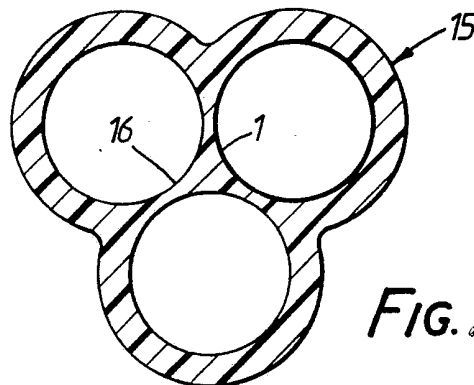


FIG. 7E.

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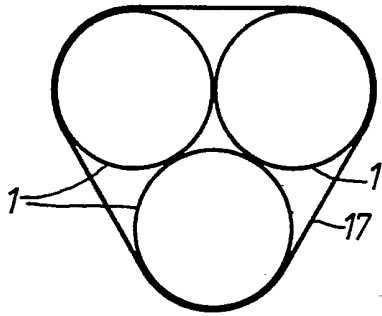


FIG. 7F.

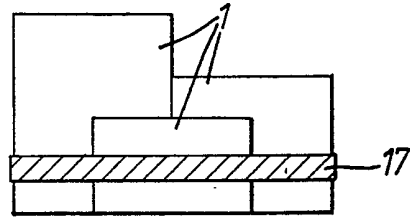


FIG. 7G.

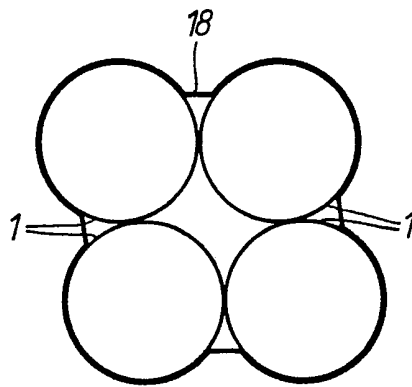


FIG. 7H.

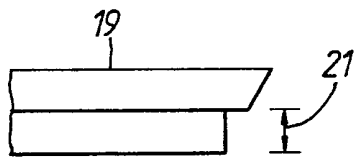


FIG. 7I.

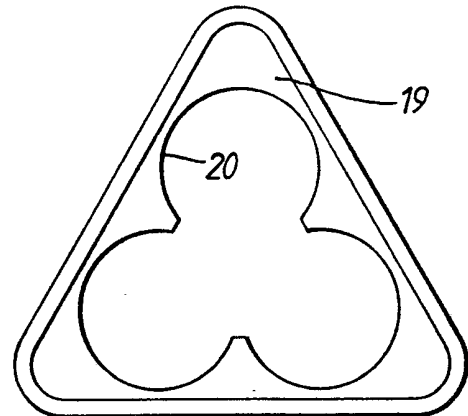


FIG. 7J.

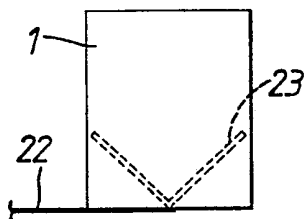


FIG. 7K.

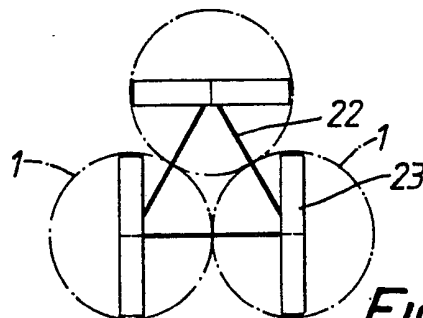


FIG. 7L.

1 This invention relates to a gardening aid which is
useful in conventional outdoor gardening but also in
indoor gardening in the home, shop, office or the like,
and in temporary or permanent displays in exhibitions and
5 so on.

An aid in accordance with the invention seeks to
provide an easy way of arranging flowering and other
plants in an attractive manner which may be purely
decorative or may serve an additional function as a
10 lawn-edging, low wall or other barrier.

According to the invention, there is provided a
gardening aid comprising a plurality of cylinders
arranged in substantially longitudinally parallel
relationship with one another, each cylinder being
15 connected to at least one other laterally adjoining or
adjacent cylinder.

For a better understanding of the invention, and
to show how the same may be carried into effect,
reference will now be made, by way of example, to the
20 accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a gardening aid
in accordance with the invention comprising a plurality
of cylinders arranged in tiers;

Figure 1A is a scrap elevation showing how one
25 cylinder may co-operate with a flower pot;

Figure 2 is a plan view corresponding to Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a front elevation illustrating a
gardening aid in accordance with the invention which
comprises a plurality of cylinders arranged to display
30 flowering or other plants at an indoor domestic,
commercial or exhibition site;

Figure 4 is a plan view corresponding to Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a plan view illustrating a gardening
aid in accordance with the invention arranged as a lawn
35 edging;

1 Figure 6 is an enlarged sectional view
substantially corresponding to Figure 5 and showing the
arrangement of the gardening aid when used as a barrier
between a lawn and a path that are located at different
5 horizontal levels; and

Figures 7A to 7L inclusive illustrate a number of
different ways in which the cylinders of a gardening aid
in accordance with the invention may be laterally
connected to one another.

10 Referring to the accompanying drawings, and
firstly to Figures 1, 1A and 2 thereof, forty-four
cylinders 1 are shown arranged in tiers with the
lowermost tier standing in a large rectangular synthetic
plastics or other tray 2. The lowermost tier of
15 cylinders 1 comprises thirty cylinders arranged in a
rectangle which is six cylinders long by five cylinders
wide whereas the second tier comprises twelve cylinders
arranged in a rectangle measuring four cylinders long by
three cylinders wide and the uppermost tier comprises
20 only two cylinders located alongside one another. The
second tier is arranged centrally on the first tier and,
in turn, the third tier is arranged centrally on the
second tier.

The cylinders 1 are shown throughout the drawings
25 as being of circular cross-section but, whilst this will
usually be most convenient, it is by no means essential
and cylinders of other cross-sections such as triangular,
square, hexagonal, octagonal, oval and so on can equally
well be employed if generally preferred or for any
30 particular installation. Preferably, but not absolutely
essentially, the cylinders 1 are formed from a rigid or
substantially rigid synthetic plastics material such as
polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polystyrene or the like
and, for most purposes, will be open at both their
35 opposite ends although it is within the scope of the
invention to have at least one cylinder of any gardening
aid wholly or principally closed at one end or at a

1 location along the axial length of the cylinder 1
concerned. Although the use of a synthetic plastics
material is preferred for both the cylinders 1 and the
rectangular tray 2, other materials, such as metal,
5 earthenware, ceramics and mixtures of cement with peat,
asbestos or other fibrous compositions can also be
employed. It is desirable for many purposes that the
cylinders 1 should be brightly coloured and this is
readily accomplished by incorporating appropriate
10 pigments into the materials from which they are formed,
such colouration being standard practice when forming
items from, in particular, synthetic plastics materials.
The cylinders 1 may, as an alternative, be painted in the
required colours. Clearly, all of the cylinders 1 in a
15 display such as the tiered display shown in Figure 1 need
not be of the same colour and the various tiers may be of
contrasting colours or several colours may be mixed more
or less at random.

Cylinders 1 of several different diameters may be
20 employed and, as will become apparent below, their axial
lengths may also vary considerably. When the cylinders 1
are of circular cross-section, they may be made in sizes
which substantially exactly match those of standard
synthetic plastics flower pots of various magnitudes and
25 Figure 1A of the drawings shows such an arrangement with
the rim 3 of a flower pot 4 exactly fitting in the upper
end of a cylinder 1. With this arrangement, flower pots
4 already containing flowering or other plants can be
arranged in a display employing at least one gardening
30 aid in accordance with the invention with only their rims
3 visible and without the plants being disturbed by
removal from their pots 4. However, if preferred,
flowering and other plants may be positioned directly in
cylinders 1 which are wholly or partly filled with garden
35 soil, prepared compost or other growing medium.

Each cylinder 1 of a gardening aid in accordance
with the invention is connected to at least one other
laterally adjoining or adjacent cylinder 1 and the

1 positions of connectors 5 can be seen in plan view in
Figure 2 of the drawings, the connectors 5 being capable
of any chosen one of a number of different constructions
some of which latter will be described in detail below.
5 Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings illustrate a deployment
of a garden aid in accordance with the invention which is
more suitable in homes, shops, exhibitions and other
enclosed premises than is the arrangement shown in
Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. A square tray 6 is
10 provided and accommodates nine conjoined cylinders 1
that, as can be seen in Figure 3, comprise several
different axial lengths so that flowering or other plants
7 occupying flower pots 4 lodged in the upper ends of the
cylinders, or planted directly in soil or compost
15 contained in those cylinders 1, may be seen to their best
advantage without at least to some extent concealing one
another. Once again, the cylinders 1 may all be of one
colour or may be of two or more different colours. It
will be noted from Figure 4 of the drawings that all of
20 the cylinders 1 are joined together by various connectors
5 to form a stable configuration in contrast to the
arrangement shown in Figure 2 where the cylinders 1 can
be rearranged relative to one another if so desired. The
configuration of Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings is
25 suitable for either outdoor or indoor use and, if
appropriate plants 7 are employed, at least some of them
will trail downwardly around the outer surfaces of the
cylinders 1 towards the tray 2. The display
configuration illustrated by way of example in Figures 3
30 and 4 of the drawings may be provided in kit form for
assembly by its user or, if preferred, may be
pre-assembled, ready for use, with the plants 7 already
in place, if so desired.

Figure 5 of the drawings shows the use of a
35 gardening aid in accordance with the invention in
providing a lawn edging or barrier between a lawn 8 and a
flower bed, path or other garden item. If, as is very

1 convenient for many purposes, the cylinders 1 are movably
joined to one another by the connectors 5, the lawn
edging or barrier of Figure 5 can extend lengthwise in
wave or other patterned form and this can be a useful
5 feature of garden design. Particularly if the plants 7
are arranged in flower pots 4 as has been described with
reference to Figure 1A, a decorative display can be
maintained along the lawn edging or barrier throughout a
large part of the year and any particular plant 7 that
10 may prove to be unsatisfactory due to disease, damage or
other cause, can be quickly and easily replaced without
disturbing any of the others. Figure 6 is a sectional
view showing an arrangement similar to that of Figure 5
but in which the lawn 8 is at a significantly lower
15 horizontal level than is a path 9 from which it is
separated by a straight, curved or wave-formed row of the
cylinders 1, each of which latter contains at least one
flowering or other plant 7. With this arrangement, the
row of cylinders 1 forms an effective barrier preventing
20 slippage of the path 9 onto the lawn 8. In order that
there shall not be significant gaps between immediately
neighbouring cylinders 1, it is desirable, with the
arrangement shown in Figure 6, that the connectors 5
between successive cylinders 1 should extend throughout
25 substantially the whole of the axial lengths of those
cylinders 1. An arrangement basically similar to that
shown in Figure 5 or Figure 6 of the drawings can form a
very effective verge to a bed containing shrub roses or
other plants and displays a considerable degree of
30 resistance to penetration of growing plants from one side
of the edging, low wall or other barrier to the opposite
side thereof.

As mentioned above, the connectors 5 between
adjoining or adjacent cylinders 1 can be in a variety of
35 different forms depending upon economic factors, whether
the gardening aid is to be used under cover or in the
open air, and whether a rigid or flexible assembly is

1 required. The cylinders 1 may be merely glued together,
2 may be stuck together using proprietary "buds" or
3 adhesive, may be flexibly joined together by forming
4 aligned holes in their walls, passing split pins through
5 those holes and parting the limbs thereof after such
6 entry. Lengths of string, cord, wire or the like may be
7 entered through aligned holes and subsequently be twisted
8 or knotted together and, where the upper ends of the
9 cylinders 1 are to be at, or substantially at, the same
10 horizontal level, spring clips 10 may be employed in the
11 manner shown in Figure 7A of the drawings. A similar
12 arrangement is, of course, also possible at the lower
13 ends of the cylinders 1 where those lower ends are at
14 substantially the same horizontal level. Figure 7B shows
15 an arrangement in which a shaped rib 11 having the same
16 radius of curvature as does the cylinder 1 concerned is
17 glued to the exterior of that cylinder 1 and a second
18 shaped rib 12 is glued to the exterior surface of an
19 immediately neighbouring cylinder 1. The first rib 1 has
20 a projecting portion of substantially circular
21 cylindrical cross-section and the second rib 12 defines a
22 cylindrical cavity in which the projection of the rib 11
23 will fit by entering the latter into said cavity from one
24 axial end thereof. Figure 7C shows the ribs 11 and 12
25 separated from another and it is noted that, instead of
26 being formed separately from the cylinders 1 and being
27 glued thereto, the ribs 11 and 12 may be formed
28 integrally with the cylinders 1. Such a construction is
29 appropriate for use in a situation such as that briefly
30 described with reference to Figure 6 of the drawings
31 since the ribs 11 and 12 can extend throughout the axial
32 lengths of the cylinders 1 and thus effectively laterally
33 seal each cylinder 1 to its neighbour or neighbours to
34 prevent leakage of soil or other material occurring
35 between the immediately neighbouring cylinders 1, the
connection being pivotable to some extent.

Figure 7D of the drawings shows an arrangement in

1 which aligned holes are formed through the walls of the
cylinders 1, a thread-less bolt 13 being entered through
the aligned holes and having a retaining pin 14 entered
transversely through an opening in its shank at the
5 opposite side of the walls of the two cylinders 1 from
the head of the bolt 13. Another possibility is, of
course, to employ ordinary machine screws and nuts in
place of the threadless bolts 13 and retaining pins 14.
Figure 7E shows a way in which cylinders 1 may be joined
10 to one another by slipping over them shaped plastics
connectors 15 which are basically similar in construction
to those used to connect together several cans of beer or
other beverage for vending purposes. The connectors 15
may be formed in colours which will match those of the
15 cylinders 1 that are to be connected to one another and,
of course, the holes 16 in the connectors 15 which
receive corresponding cylinders 1 need not be in a
triangular arrangement as shown in Figure 7E but could be
in any desired pattern including one in which a large
20 number of them are arranged side-by-side in a row.
Figures 7F and 7G of the drawings illustrate an
arrangement in which three cylinders 1 of different axial
lengths are joined together in a triangular pattern, as
seen in plan view (Figure 7F), by a pre-formed band 17
25 that is preferably coloured to match, or contrast with,
the colour or colours of the cylinders 1. Once again,
the band 17 could, of course, laterally join together
only two of the cylinders 1 or four or more of those
cylinders. At least one commercially available elastic
30 band could be substituted for the pre-formed band 17,
such elastic bands being available commercially in a
variety of colours and in different lengths which would
suit different numbers of cylinders 1 to be arranged in
any specific display.

35 Figure 7H of the drawings illustrates the use of a
gardening aid in accordance with the invention in forming
a display which, in plan view, is of generally rhombic

1 form, the display comprising four cylinders 1 that are
joined to one another by employing a band 18 of metallic
wire shaped to surround the cylinders 1 which are to
constitute the display. It will be readily apparent that
5 other numbers of the cylinders 1 could be conjoined in
the same way using an appropriate band 18.

Figures 7I and 7J of the drawings show the use of
a tray 19 to join together in a triangular pattern (as
seen in plan view) three cylinders 1 which are not
10 illustrated in these two Figures of the drawings. The
tray 19 has a recessed area 20 in its base which receives
the lower ends of the cylinders 1 and prevents them from
moving laterally relative to one another. Figure 7I
shows the depth 21 of the recessed area 20. The tray 19
15 and its shaped recessed area 20 could, of course, once
again be shaped to receive and laterally join together
numbers of the cylinders 1 which differ from three.

Figures 7K and 7L of the drawings show the use of
a wire frame 22 whose arrangement is such that limbs
20 thereof cross the longitudinal axes of each of at least
two cylinders 1. Spring clips 23 are arranged on the
frame 22 at each point where the latter registers with
the longitudinal axis of a corresponding cylinder 1, the
cylinders 1 then being moved axially downwards over the
25 clips 23 which latter will adopt substantially the
configuration shown in Figure 7K. Figure 7L shows three
cylinders 1 joined together in this way.

The invention provides a gardening aid of a simple
and relatively inexpensive construction which can be
30 employed for the display of flowering and other plants in
an attractive manner in both indoor and outdoor
situations and which gardening aid can also serve a
practical constructional purpose in gardening
architecture. If the cylinders 1 are provided in short
35 lengths, tiers of them can be built up in many situations
as described with reference to Figures 1 and 2 of the
drawings and the cylinders 1 can, of course, be arranged

1 only in single tiers. When it is desired to grow a
calcifuge plant, such as an azalea, in an alkaline
environment, the plant can advantageously be grown in one
5 of the cylinders 1 of a gardening aid in accordance with
the invention to maintain a separate "acid" environment
for that plant. Similarly, in an acid environment,
pockets of alkaline compost can be created in the
cylinders 1 for appropriate plants.

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CLAIMS:

- 1
1. A gardening aid comprising a plurality of cylinders arranged in substantially longitudinally parallel relationship with one another, each cylinder being connected to at least one other laterally adjoining or adjacent cylinder.
- 5
2. A gardening aid as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one cylinder has a different axial length to that of at least one other cylinder.
- 10
3. A gardening aid as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the connections between the cylinders are of flexible construction.
4. A gardening aid as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein the cylinders are of circular cross-section.
- 15
5. A gardening aid as claimed in Claim 4, wherein at least one cylinder has a different diameter to that of at least one other cylinder.
- 20
6. A gardening aid as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein at least some of the cylinders are open at both their axial ends.
7. A gardening aid as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, the aid being constructed and arranged for use as a lawn edging or barrier.
- 25
8. A gardening aid as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein the connections between the cylinders extend throughout substantially the complete axial lengths of at least some of those cylinders.
- 30
9. A gardening aid as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein at least one cylinder has a different colour to that of at least one other cylinder.
- 35
10. A gardening aid substantially as hereinbefore described with or without reference to any of the embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawings.