

GROWING SYSTEMS AND METHODS

Abstract

A growing system is described where plants are grown in containers 110 and the containers 110 are stored in stacks 12. Above the stacks 12 runs a grid network of tracks on which load handling devices 30 run. The load handling devices 30 take containers 110 from the stacks 12 and deposit them at alternative locations in the stacks or deposit them at stations where goods may be picked out. The containers 110 may be provided with one or more of the following services: power, power control, heating, lighting, cooling, sensing means, data logging means, growing means, water and nutrients. The system further comprises deployable lighting means 60 capable of lighting each container 110 from above when in use but moveable to a stored location when not required. The provision of these such lighting means 60 within individual containers 110 rather than across the system as a whole, allows for flexibility in storage whilst reducing cost and inefficiency and enables multiple crops to be grown in a single area.

[Figure 7]