

ABSTRACT

PROCESS FOR IMPREGNATION AND EXPANSION OF TOBACCO

A process for expanding tobacco is provided which
employs carbon dioxide gas. Tobacco temperature and OV
5 content are adjusted prior to contacting the tobacco with
carbon dioxide gas. A thermodynamic path is followed
during impregnation which allows a controlled amount of
the carbon dioxide gas to condense on the tobacco. This
liquid carbon dioxide evaporates during depressurization
10 helping to cool the tobacco bed uniformly. After
impregnation, the tobacco may be expanded immediately or
kept at or below its post-vent temperature in a dry
atmosphere for subsequent expansion.

Figure 1

