CLAIMS

[Claim 1] A support for a climbing plant, the support comprising:

a tubular structure defining a volume for containing therein a substrate, the tubular structure having a plurality of root-passage holes for passage therethrough of roots of the climbing plant to engage the substrate, wherein the tubular structure comprises a single sheet of plastic material having a first long edge, a second long edge, and two short edges;

the sheet having the plurality of root-passage holes provided therethrough, wherein each of the plurality of root-passage holes is sized to allow roots of the climbing plants to pass through the root-passage hole, while to prevent the substrate contained in the support from falling out of the root-passage hole;

the sheet having an integral plurality of tabs extending from the first long edge and spaced apart from each other at intervals along the first long edge;

the sheet having a corresponding plurality of tab-engagement holes provided adjacent the second long edge and spaced apart from each other at intervals along the second long edge,

wherein the plurality of tabs and the corresponding plurality of tab-engagement holes are in engagement with each other such that the sheet is assembled into the tubular structure;

wherein the sheet comprises a first longitudinal portion comprising the first long edge, a second longitudinal portion comprising the second long edge, and a central longitudinal portion provided between the first and second longitudinal portion, wherein the plurality of root-passage holes are provided on at least the central longitudinal portion;

wherein the sheet comprises a first longitudinal score line provided to facilitate bending without breaking of the sheet between the first longitudinal portion and the central longitudinal portion, wherein the sheet comprises a second longitudinal score line provided to facilitate bending without breaking of the sheet between the second longitudinal portion and the central longitudinal

portion, and wherein bending of the sheet along both the first and second longitudinal score lines facilitates meeting and engagement of the plurality of tabs with the plurality of tab-engagement holes; and,

when the plurality of tabs are in engagement with the plurality of tab-engagement holes, the tubular structure has a semi-circular cross-section.

[Claim 2] The support of Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of tabs comprises a tab head and a tab neck connecting the tab head to the first long edge, wherein the tab head is configured to be manipulated through a corresponding one of the plurality of tab-engagement holes and to prevent slipping of the tab head back out of the tab-engagement hole, and wherein the tab neck has a width able to be accommodated by the tab-engagement hole.

[Claim 3] The support of claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of tab-engagement holes comprises a slit provided through the sheet, wherein each tab head has a free end and a necked end adjoining the tab neck, wherein the free end has a width less than the length of the slit, and wherein the necked end has a width greater than a length of the slit.

[Claim 4] The support of claim 3, wherein the tab head has a shape that is one of: a triangle, a semi-circle, and an isosceles trapezoid.

[Claim 5] The support of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plurality of root-passage holes are arranged in a grid configuration through the sheet.

[Claim 6] The support of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plastic material comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

[Claim 7] The support of any one of the preceding claims, wherein multiple units of the support are joinable by insertion of a lower end of one unit of the support into an upper end of another unit of the support to create an extended support of increased length.

[Claim 8] The support of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the each of the plurality of root-passage holes is configured to have a dimension ranging from 5 mm to 25 mm.

[Claim 9] The support of Claim 8, wherein the dimension is 12 mm.

[Claim 10] Use of the support of any one of the preceding claims for supporting growth of a climbing plant.

[Claim 11] A blank for forming a support for a climbing plant, the blank comprising:

a single sheet of plastic material having a first long edge, a second long edge, and two short edges;

the sheet having a plurality of root-passage holes for passage therethrough of roots of the climbing plant;

the sheet having an integral plurality of tabs extending from the first long edge and spaced apart from each other at intervals along the first long edge;

the sheet having a corresponding plurality of tab-engagement holes provided adjacent the second long edge and spaced apart from each other at intervals along the second long edge,

wherein the plurality of tabs and the corresponding plurality of tab-engagement holes are configured to engage each other for assembling the sheet into a tubular structure to form the support, wherein the tubular structure is configured to define a volume for containing therein a substrate;

wherein the sheet comprises a first longitudinal portion comprising the first long edge, a second longitudinal portion comprising the second long edge, and a central longitudinal portion provided between the first and second longitudinal portion, wherein the plurality of root-passage holes are provided on at least the central longitudinal portion;

wherein the sheet comprises a first longitudinal score line provided to facilitate bending without breaking of the sheet between the first

longitudinal portion and the central longitudinal portion, wherein the sheet comprises a second longitudinal score line provided to facilitate bending without breaking of the sheet between the second longitudinal portion and the central longitudinal portion, and wherein bending of the sheet along both the first and second longitudinal score lines facilitates meeting of the plurality of tabs with the plurality of tab-engagement holes during assembly of the sheet into the support pole;

when the plurality of tabs are in engagement with the plurality of tab-engagement holes, the tubular structure has a semi-circular cross-section;

wherein each of the plurality of root-passage holes is sized to allow roots of the climbing plants to pass through the root-passage hole, while to prevent the substrate contained in the support from falling out of the root-passage hole.

[Claim 12] The blank of Claim 11, wherein the each of the plurality of root-passage holes is configured to have a dimension ranging from 5 mm to 25 mm.

[Claim 13] The blank of Claim 12, wherein the dimension is 12 mm.

[Claim 14] The blank of any one of Claims 11 to 13, wherein each of the plurality of tabs comprises a tab head and a tab neck connecting the tab head to the first long edge, wherein the tab head is configured to be manipulated through a corresponding one of the plurality of tab-engagement holes and to prevent slipping of the tab head back out of the tab-engagement hole, and wherein the tab neck has a width able to be accommodated by the tab-engagement hole.

[Claim 15] The blank of claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of tab-engagement holes comprises a slit provided through the sheet, wherein each tab head has a free end and a necked end adjoining the tab neck, wherein the free end has a width less than the length of the slit, and wherein the necked end has a width greater than a length of the slit.

[Claim 16] The blank of claim 15, wherein the tab head has a shape that is one of: a triangle, a semi-circle, and an isosceles trapezoid.

[Claim 17] The blank of any one of claims 11 to 16, wherein the plurality of root-passage holes are arranged in a grid configuration through the sheet.

[Claim 18] The blank of any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein the plastic material comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

[Claim 19] Use of the blank of any one of claims 11 to 17 for forming a support for supporting growth of a climbing plant.