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(54) Title: SUPPORT ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR GROWING PLANTS THEREIN

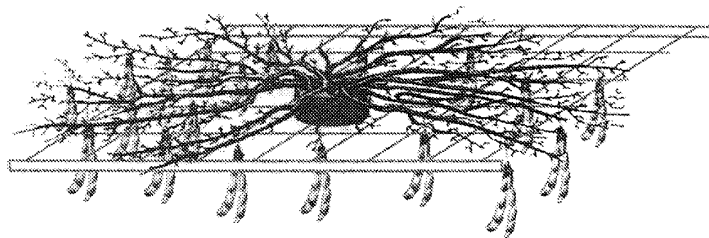


Fig. 4A

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a support assembly for supporting a plurality of layers of essentially horizontally extending meshed support elements, arranged one above the other with a distance therebetween, the support elements being designed to hold units of nutrient substrate spaced from one another, wherein in each unit of nutrient substrate an essentially horizontally growing plant is rooted, in order to allow the essentially horizontally growing plants to grow, supported by the respective meshed support element concerned, wherein the mesh size is such that the fruit forming from the horizontally growing plants can grow downwards through the mesh to ripen under the respective support element, wherein the distance between two support elements arranged one above the other is chosen so as to allow both unhindered horizontal growth of the plants on the lower support element and the development and ripening of the fruit of the plants growing on the upper element, and wherein a plurality of the support elements can be moved horizontally relative to one another to provide space for harvesting the fruit.



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