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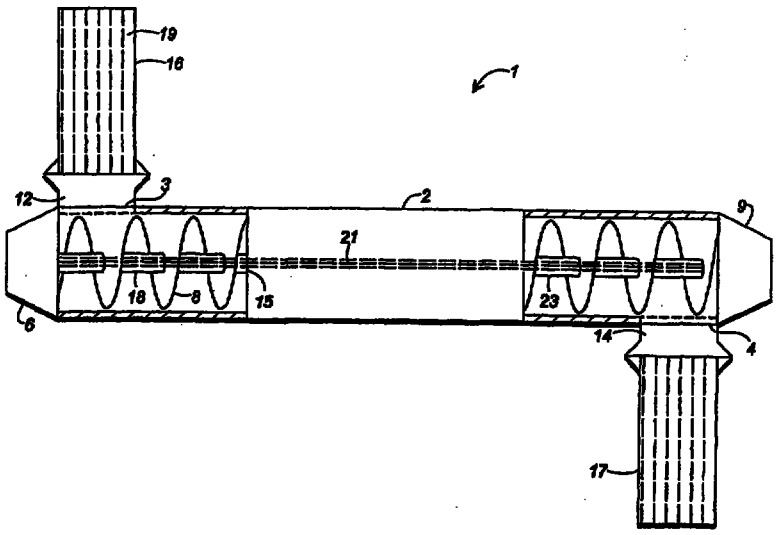
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(57) Abstract

The present invention provides a method and apparatus (1) for treating soil with electromagnetic radiation. The apparatus (1) of the present invention comprises an electromagnetic radiation applicator (2) through which the soil travels as it is being irradiated, an input port (3) through which the soil is fed into the applicator (2), and an output port (4) through which the soil exits the applicator (2) after the soil has been sterilized. An electromagnetic radiation source (31) is coupled to the apparatus (1) of the present invention for providing radiation to the applicator (2). The electromagnetic radiation source generates electromagnetic radiation which is directed into the applicator and concentrated into the soil. The electromagnetic radiation source (31) preferably is coupled to the applicator (2) at a plurality of locations along the applicator (2) via a plurality of waveguides (41, 43) so that the soil will be uniformly exposed to the radiation as it passes through the applicator (2).