

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 April 2002 (25.04.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/32210 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A01B 79/00**,
79/02, A01C 1/00, A01G 1/00, A01H 3/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/41178

(22) International Filing Date: 16 October 2000 (16.10.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **DRIWA-
TER, INC.** [US/US]; 600 E. Todd Road, Santa Rosa, CA
94507 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **PATERNOSTER,
Joseph** [US/US]; 806 Franquette Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA
95405 (US). **JENSEN, Harold** [US/US]; 2275 Hearn Av-
enue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407 (US).

(74) Agent: **DERGOSITS, Michael, E.**; Dergosits & Noah
LLP, Four Embarcadero Center, Suite 1150, San Francisco,
CA 94111 (US).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,
DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR,
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,
LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,
NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- with amended claims and statement

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*



WO 02/32210 A1

(54) Title: MULCH COMPOSITION AND METHOD

(57) Abstract: A mulch composition having extended moisture retention time and a method for use thereof are provided. In a first preferred embodiment of the present invention, a hydro mix moisturizing agent is added to a seeded mulch. The preferred embodiment comprises 93.95% of water, 5.85% of mulch, and 0.2% moisturizing agent by weight as a percentage of the weight of the water used, and fertilizer and seed in any selected amounts. In this preferred embodiment, the moisturizing agent comprises a cellulose gum, a cross-linker, and a surfactant. The moisturizing agent retains water in the mulch composition and releases water into the soil surface at a controlled rate while binding together the mulch composition. Moisture is retained for a longer amount of time than the prior art mulch compositions to promote maximum seed germination. The mulch composition according to the present invention additionally provides effective dust and erosion control properties.