

SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to a container

This invention relates to a container and more particularly to a container for a plant.

5 Typical prior art containers for plants employ a drainage basin that is remote from the upper edge of the potting vessel and there is no means to direct circulating air round the vessel towards the foliage of the plant.

10 According to this invention there is provided a container for a plant comprising a tray support and at least one vessel wherein the tray support incorporates at least one compartment, formed by a base and an upstanding wall, there being a
15 peripheral flange portion positioned about the or each said compartment and located between the top and bottom of the compartment, said vessel being formed by a side wall and an integral bottom wall having at least one opening there-
20 through, there being a positioning and supporting means, with passageways therethrough, adapted to position and to support said vessel so that the side wall and bottom wall are within said compartment and in juxtaposition with the
25 upstanding wall and base, respectively, of the compartment, the positioning means comprising a skirt affixed to the side wall of the vessel, and so located that, firstly, a terminal edge of the skirt lies in plane lying between the bottom wall and
30 the top edge of the side wall, and secondly, the skirt is located close to a portion of the respective compartment, which extends above the flange portion of the tray support, said terminal edge being in abutment with said flange portion.

35 Advantageously, the skirt depends from, and is affixed to, the top edge of the side wall of the vessel.

Suitably, said skirt is affixed to the side wall structure by a substantially horizontal lip provided
40 with at least one passageway opening there-through.

Conveniently, said skirt constitutes said positioning and supporting means, said passageways extending therethrough.

45 Preferably, a plurality of fins support said skirt, the fins being uniformly spaced about the side wall and adjacent the top edge thereof, each fin lying in a substantially vertical plane.

The tray support conveniently comprises
50 handle projections.

Advantageously, a plurality of compartments and a corresponding plurality of vessels and positioning means are provided.

Suitably, said flange portions interconnect said
55 compartments.

In one embodiment of the invention a vessel is supported in spaced relationship to a tray, and excess water in the tray below the vessel is allowed to evaporate in the air circulating around
60 the vessel thereby creating a moist atmosphere close to the foliage of a plant in the container.

A plurality of passageways at the upper edge of the container communicate with a region formed between the tray and vessel so that

65 circulating air is directed towards the plant foliage. This ensures that the plant has the advantage of a moist atmosphere about its foliage even after the water has evaporated from the potting soil surface.

70 In order that the invention may be more readily appreciated and so that further features thereof may be appreciated, a container in accordance with the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the
75 accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a container for plants according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the container of Figure 1, with one potting vessel
80 being shown exploded from the tray support;

Figure 3 is a partial top perspective view of the tray support shown in Figures 1 and 2, taken along line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is an end view of the container shown
85 in Figure 2 looking along line 4—4;

Figure 5 is a top plan view of the tray support of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a partial cross-sectional view of the tray support taken on line 6—6 of Figure 5;

90 Figure 7 is a top plan view of a vessel of a container according to the invention;

Figure 8 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the edge portion shown in Figure 7 with a circle 8; and

95 Figure 9 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the container of Figure 2 taken along line 9—9.

Referring first to Figure 1, a container 10 includes a plurality of individual compartments 11 support by a tray 12. In the preferred embodiment illustrated, three individual compartments 11 are aligned in a single row along the supporting tray 12 which is of a generally rectangular shape and which includes a peripherally extending flange
105 portion 13. The individual compartments 11 are each further formed by an upstanding wall 14, as is shown in Figure 3, having an open-topped rim 15, extending above the plane of the flange 13, and an integral base 16.

The tray support 12 is further provided with
110 handle projections 17. As is best seen in Figures 1, 3 and 6, the handle projections 17 are formed as a stepped down portion 18 of the tray 12. Each stepped down portion is formed with a slanted end wall 19, slanted side walls 20, and an outwardly extending upwardly slanted base
115 portion 21. This particular arrangement has been found to provide a handle which can be gripped easily.

For the purpose of rigidifying the tray 12, a depending brim 22 is provided on the longest edges thereof. The brim 22 extends substantially perpendicularly to the peripheral flange portion 13 and is preferably formed as a trussed support member. The brim 22 tapers from a mid-point 23
125 upwardly to a region of minimum width at each end 24 of the brim. This particular arrangement of the brim 22 has been found to provide much rigidity to the rectangularly shaped supporting tray 12 when the tray is used in the manner

shown to support individual compartments aligned in a single row.

In the arrangement shown, the integral bases 16 of each of the individual compartments lie substantially in a common plane and thus the planter 10 can be placed upon a flat surface in stable position

A potting vessel 25 (shown in Figures 2, 7 and 8) comprises a side wall 26 and integral bottom wall 27 having openings 28 therethrough. Furthermore, in the preferred embodiment the top edge 29 of the side wall 26 has a generally horizontal outwardly extending lip 30 formed by a plurality of vertically arranged fins 31. The fins 31, as can readily be appreciated from Figures 7 and 8, define a plurality of passageways 32 through the lip 30 and provide for the rigid attachment of a depending skirt 33 to the side wall 26.

As can best be seen in Figure 9, the potting vessels 25 are adapted to be placed in the planter tray compartments 11. When in place, the vessel is located with its side wall 26 and bottom wall 27 close to the upstanding wall 14 and the base 16, respectively, of the corresponding tray support compartment 11. This position is determined by the interengagement of the bottom edge 34 of the skirt 33 with the upper side of the peripheral flange portion 13 of the tray support 12 and by the close relationship between the rim 15 and the inside surface of the skirt 33.

In use, the potting vessel 25 is partially filled with soil or the like, and a plant is placed in the soil. When the plant is watered through the soil, excess water 35 will flow through the openings 28 in the bottom wall 27 of the potting vessel 25 and into the compartment 11 below. Air, indicated by arrows 36 in Figure 9, can readily move in and out of the cavity between the wall 14 of the compartment 11 and the wall 26 of the vessel 25 by flowing through the passageways 32. This air will contact the excess water at the bottom of the compartment 11 which will evaporate. Accordingly, the circulatory activity of the air surrounding the planter will provide a moist atmosphere that will be directed by the fins 31 towards the foliage of the plant. Similarly, the soil supporting the root system of the plant is exposed to the moisture-laden air through the openings 28.

From the foregoing it should be apparent that an unusually effective planting method is conceived hereby.

Claims

1. A container for a plant comprising a tray

support and at least one vessel wherein the tray support incorporates at least one compartment, formed by a base and an upstanding wall, there being a peripheral flange portion positioned about the or each said compartment and located between the top and bottom of the compartment, said vessel being formed by a side wall and an integral bottom wall having at least one opening therethrough, there being a positioning and supporting means, with passageways there-through, adapted to position and to support said vessel so that the side wall and bottom wall are within said compartment and in juxtaposition with the upstanding wall and base, respectively, of the compartment, the positioning means comprising a skirt affixed to the side wall of the vessel, and so located that, firstly, a terminal edge of the skirt lies in a plane lying between the bottom wall and the top edge of the side wall, and secondly, the skirt is located close to a portion of the respective compartment which extends above the flange portion of the tray support, said terminal edge being in abutment with said flange portion.

2. A container according to claim 1 wherein the skirt depends from, and is affixed to, the top edge of the side wall of vessel.

3. A container according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the skirt is affixed to the side wall structure by a substantially horizontal lip provided with at least one passageway opening there-through.

4. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said skirt constitutes said positioning and supporting means, said passageways extending therethrough.

5. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein a plurality of fins support said skirt, the fins being uniformly spaced about the side wall and adjacent the top edge thereof, each fin lying in a substantially vertical plane.

6. A container according to any one of the preceding claims where the tray support comprises handle projections.

7. A container according to claim 1 or 2 wherein a plurality of compartments and a corresponding plurality of vessels and positioning and supporting means are provided.

8. A container according to claim 7 wherein said flange portions interconnect said compartments.

9. A container substantially as herein described with reference to, and as shown in, Figures 1 to 9 of the accompanying drawings.



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