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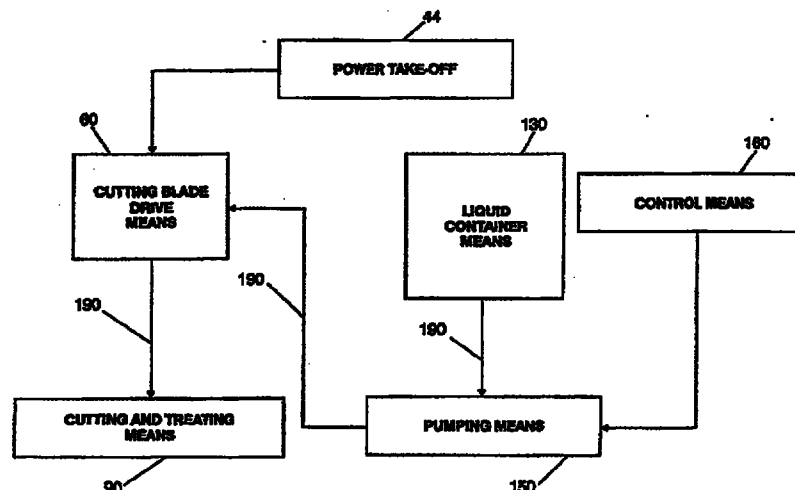
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/13362 (22) International Filing Date: 16 August 1996 (16.08.96) (30) Priority Data: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>60/002,397</td> <td>17 August 1995 (17.08.95)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60/007,633</td> <td>28 November 1995 (28.11.95)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29/047,770</td> <td>12 December 1995 (12.12.95)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> </table> (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: BURCH, Thomas, B. [US/US]; P.O. Box 3583, Boone, NC 28607 (US). (74) Agents: DREMANN, Christopher, C. et al.; Ralph H. Dougherty, P.A., Suite 820, 1515 Mockingbird Lane, Charlotte, NC 28209 (US).	60/002,397	17 August 1995 (17.08.95)	US	60/007,633	28 November 1995 (28.11.95)	US	29/047,770	12 December 1995 (12.12.95)	US	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CUTTING AND TREATING VEGETATION



(57) Abstract

An apparatus and a method for cutting vegetation and simultaneously treating the remaining stems of the cut vegetation with a treatment fluid. The apparatus includes a mower (42), a cutting blade drive means (60) rotatably mounted on the mower (42), a blade carrier (92) secured to the rotatable drive means (60), and at least one cutting blade assembly (100) rotatably mounted on the blade carrier (92). The apparatus further includes fluid container means (130) for containing the treatment fluid in a plurality of interconnected, stackable and removable fluid-containing cells (32), pumping means (150) for pumping the treatment fluid to the at least one cutting blade assembly (100), flow control means (160) for metering the amount of treatment fluid that is pumped to the at least one cutting blade assembly (100), and fluid conduit means (190) for delivering the treatment fluid from the fluid container means (130) to the cutting and treating means (90). The method includes the steps of cutting vegetation with at least one cutting blade, and delivering a treatment fluid to the underside of the at least one cutting blade in a continuous stream so that the treatment fluid is continuously available to the remaining stems of the cut vegetation.