CLAIMS

1. A growing system comprising:

a first set of substantially parallel rails or tracks and a second set of substantially parallel rails or tracks extending transverse to the first set in a substantially horizontal plane to form a grid pattern comprising a plurality of grid spaces;

a plurality of storage containers arranged in stacks, located beneath the grid spaces; and,

at least one load handling device disposed on the grid, arranged to move laterally above the stacks on the rails, the load handling device comprising a lifting device arranged to lift at least one container, or part thereof, from a stack

wherein at least one container comprises a fluid supply means to provide water and/or nutrients to living organisms contained within the at least one container.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein some or all of the containers comprise lighting means.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein the lighting means comprises light emitting means emitting light of a wavelength or range of wavelengths suitable for the cultivation, control or maintenance of living organisms.

4. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein the living organisms comprise growing crops or organisms under research and development.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein a proportion of the containers comprise growing crops.

6. A system according to claim 4, wherein a proportion of the containers comprise organisms under research and development.

7. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein some or all of the containers comprise power supply means.

8. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein some or all of the containers comprise power control means.

9. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein some or all of the containers comprise sensor means and data logging means for monitoring the output of the sensor means.

10. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein some or all the containers comprise communication means for communicating with adjacent containers or with a central communications manager.

11. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein some or all of the containers comprise heating means for heating the contents of the containers.

12. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein some or all of the containers comprise cooling means for cooling the contents of the containers.

13. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein some or all of the containers comprise a reservoir, the reservoir acting as a fluid sink in the container.

14. A system according to any preceding claim, wherein some or all of the containers comprise lighting means, the length of time the lighting means is operable being controllable and variable.