

- 1 -

Improvements in or relating to a container

THIS INVENTION relates to containers and more particularly to those which will be useful in the care of various houseplants. A particular container in accordance with the invention is principally intended for use as a watering can.

5

It should be understood that the differing varieties of plants and flowers demand that they be watered and cared for in different fashions. Accordingly, it is to the horticulturist's advantage to have many differing ways which to apply needed fluid media to these house plants. In the past it has been typical for watering cans to be of a relative uniform character wherein each included a receptacle capable of storing the fluid medium to be dispensed, having a handle by which to grasp it easily and a pouring spout or sprinkling head through which the medium might be applied to the shrub, plant or flower. Thus, only a single means of application of water or the like to the plant was made available to the user.

15

It is an object of the present invention to provide a more versatile container.

20

Accordingly, the present invention provides a container for retaining and selectively dispensing a liquid, which container comprises a bottom wall and a surrounding sidewall to define an open topped receptacle, a first portion of the sidewall having projecting therefrom a channel-like discharge spout which terminates as a first opening adjacent the open top of the receptacle, a second portion of the sidewall remote from said first portion having a handle member projecting therefrom, a second discharge opening being provided in said container and a flexible conduit being in communication with and extending from said second discharge opening, a cover member removably engageable with the upper edge of the sidewall, which cover member is provided with holding means for selectively receiving a

25
30

portion of said conduit releasably to hold the conduit.

Preferably, the second discharge opening is aligned with said handle member. Advantageously, the handle member defines a groove to accommodate removably the flexible conduit. Suitably, the groove of the handle is formed in the outermost peripheral surface of the handle member.

Desirably, the holder means is adapted to accommodate the flexible conduit in juxtaposition with the handle member.

Advantageously, the cover member has recess means formed therein for accommodating the flexible conduit. Conveniently, the recess means forms a general continuation of the groove in the handle member, wherein said second portion is substantially opposite to said first portion and the groove in the handle member is of a depth at least as great as the diameter of the flexible conduit to receive the flexible conduit therein.

Preferably, additional side wall parts mount a rotatably positionable bail thereon.

So that the invention may be more readily understood and so that further features may be appreciated, a container, in this instance a watering can, in accordance with the invention, will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a top perspective view of the watering can showing the various elements thereof in their respective association with another;

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the watering can of Figure 1 wherein the flexible fluid conduit is disassociated therefrom;

FIGURE 3 is a side elevational view of the can and various other elements forming the watering can, again illustrating the flexible fluid conduit and valve removed from the receptacle and its closure in anticipation of use;

FIGURE 4 shows a partial top perspective view of the watering can closure illustrating the flexible fluid conduit and its associated valve in fixed relationship with the cover;

5 FIGURE 5 is an enlarged exploded vertical cross-sectional view of the watering can showing the flexible fluid conduit and cover;

10 FIGURE 6 is a partial front and cross-sectional view of the watering can illustrating the assembly of the bail to the receptacle portion thereof;

FIGURE 7 is a partial front elevational view illustrating the uppermost extremity of the pouring spout construction of the watering can; and

15 FIGURE 8 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken at line 8 in Figure 3 and illustrating the interconnection means between the cover and receptacle portions of the watering can.

20 Referring now to the drawings and more particularly to Figure 1, it will become apparent that the watering can 10 comprises a plurality of

25

30

35

elements, these being a receptacle 12, a cover member 14, a bail 16 and a flexible fluid conduit 18. The receptacle 12 is of course the principal container element for the fluid medium that the horticulturist will dispense from the device. The receptacle comprises an integral bottom wall 20 and side wall arrangement 22. The side wall arrangement 22 can further be designated as having several separate segments, one of which 24 forms the very front of the receptacle body. A second and opposite segment 26 forms the rear portion of the side wall arrangement and additional opposed segments 28, 30 complete the wall structure. As part of the front side wall segment 24 there is an integral channel-like portion 32 which extends from a point adjacent the bottom wall 20 to the very top edge opening of the receptacle 12 and angularly protrudes outwardly therefrom as a V-shaped element which forms the principal pouring spout or opening 34.

As indicated, the receptacle 12 and the channel-like portion 32 both exhibit an upwardly directed opening or upper extremity 36 bounded by a projecting lip 38A (Figures 5 to 8).

The second segment 26 of the side wall arrangement 22 comprises a protruding handle member 38 which may be seen from Figures 1, 2, 3 and 5 to be grooved as at 40 along the edge which is most remote from the side wall arrangement 22. The purpose of the groove 40 will be discussed hereinafter in more detail.

In a preferred embodiment of this invention there is a second opening 42 to the interior of the receptacle 12 adjacent the receptacle bottom wall 20 at a position directly below the lowermost extremity of the handle member 38. (Figure 1). The receptacle, therefore, comprises two openings 34 and 42 through which fluid media retained within the receptacle 12 may be dispensed at the will of the user depending upon his particular need. The second opening 42 is, of course, effectively closed by the flexible fluid conduit member 18 which can be seen to be attached thereto.

The bail 16, as can best be seen in Figure 6, is attached to the additional segments 28, 30 of the side wall arrangement 22. Each of these side wall segments 28, 30 can be seen to have positioned thereon a respective short, hollow, stub-like axle 44 over which may be positioned one

of the respective hub portions 46 that are at each end of the bail 16. The assembly is thereafter fixedly but rotatably attached in place by plug-like fasteners 48 which pass through the bail hubs 46 and into a snap-fit relationship with the interior of the axles 44.

5

The top surface of the cover member 14 has an opening so that fluid media may be easily inserted into receptacle 12, and the covers 14 also incorporates around its outer peripheral edge a detent like flange 52 (Figure 8) which is adapted to interlock with the projecting lip 38A that protrudes from the upper extremity of the side wall arrangement 22. This interlocking interengagement produces an abutting relationship between the upper extremity 36 of the side wall arrangement 22 and the cover member 14 thereby holding the cover 14 in firm yet removable relationship with the receptacle 12. The cover member 14 also comprises along its uppermost surface three recesses 52, 54, 60 which are appropriately shaped to accommodate a valve and nozzle member 56 that is attached to the remote end of the flexible fluid conduit 18. The cover member 14 also upon its upper surface exposes a holding means 58 which comprises two clip-type members protruding from that upper surface. When it is desired to either store the watering can or use it by pouring a fluid medium through the opening 34, the flexible conduit 18 and its attached valve and nozzle member 56 may be securely retained in an out-of-the-way position as can best be seen in Figure 4. In such a position the flexible hose can be seen to be retained between the clips of the holding means 58. Furthermore, because of the appropriate recesses 52, 54, 60 in the cover member 14, the valve and nozzle member 56 and flexible conduit 18 are nestled therein. Similarly, in such a position the flexible conduit 18 is closely drawn into the groove 40 in handle member 38. Accordingly, the user's hand, in gripping the handle member 38, also surrounds the flexible conduit 18 and further assures that it will be retained in its out-of-the-way position during this usage.

30

When the horticulturist user desires to be more selective in his watering technique, he may use the flexible conduit 18 by removing it and the valve and nozzle member 56 from their retained positions elevating the receptacle 12, activating the valve of the valve and nozzle member 56 and allowing fluid medium to be dispensed through the valve and nozzle member 56 and fluid conduit 18 to the appropriate position within his planted area. In

35

this fashion, discrete quantities of fluid medium may be dispensed discretely at various positions without interfering with a particular plant portion or associated plants.

5 It is contemplated that the watering can may be manufactured from a variety of materials but the preferred embodiment will be ideally produced from a suitable plastics material such as polypropylene or ABS. From the foregoing it should be appreciated that the watering can as described includes a variety of features not previously known, which
10 features enhance the ability of the user to apply more effectively fluid medium to selected plants as ⁱⁿay be desired.

 It has been found that containers in accordance with the invention can afford the user a multiplicity of means for the application of a fluid medium
15 to his house plants. It has been found that another object of the instant container can be easily manipulated into a final position for use and which will uniformly and effectively expel the fluid medium. Furthermore, all the elements of the device may be retained in a unitary fashion so that during
20 use none will interfere with the other.

 Thus, a plastic watering can in accordance with the invention may have dual dispensing capabilities whereby copious quantities of a fluid medium may be dispensed through one can opening and discrete quantities of fluid medium may be appropriately and controllably dispensed through a
25 separate opening provided within the can receptacle.

30

35



-7-

CLAIMS:

1. A container for retaining and selectively dispensing a liquid, which container comprises a bottom wall and a surrounding sidewall to define an open topped receptacle, a first portion of the sidewall having projecting therefrom a channel-like discharge spout which terminates as a first opening adjacent the open top of the receptacle, a second portion of the sidewall remote from said first portion having a handle member projecting therefrom, a second discharge opening being provided in said container and a flexible conduit being in communication with and extending from said second discharge opening, a cover member removably engageable with the upper edge of the sidewall, which cover member is provided with holding means for selectively receiving a portion of said conduit releasably to hold the conduit.
2. A container according to claim 1, wherein said second discharge opening is aligned with said handle member.
3. A container according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said handle member defines a groove to accommodate removably the flexible conduit.
4. A container according to claim 3, wherein the groove of the handle is formed in the outermost peripheral surface of the handle member.
5. A container according to claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the holder means is adapted to accommodate the flexible conduit in juxtaposition with the handle member.
6. A container according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said cover member has recess means formed therein for accommodating the flexible conduit.
7. A container according to claim 6, wherein said recess means forms a general continuation of the groove in the handle member, wherein said second portion is substantially opposite to said first portion and the groove in the handle member is of a depth at least as great as the diameter of the flexible conduit to receive the flexible conduit therein.



-8-

8. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein additional side wall parts mount a rotatably positionable bail thereon.
9. A container substantially as herein described with reference to and as
- 5 shown in the accompanying drawings.
-