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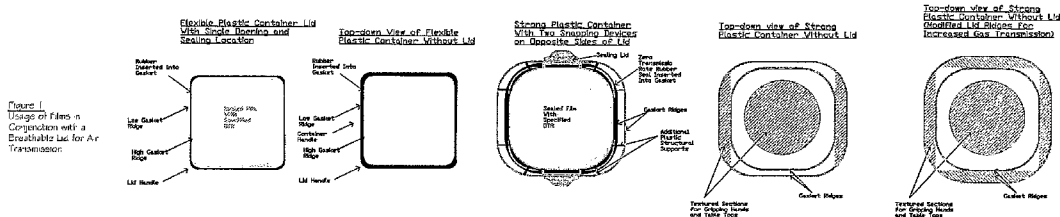
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(54) Title: A REUSABLE PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINER AND LID WITH GAS-PERMEABLE MEMBRANES FOR MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE STORAGE OF FOOD AND PERISHABLES

Modified Atmosphere Packaging



(57) Abstract: A system and reusable plastic container for preserving the quality of a range of fruits and vegetables. The container independently maintains modified atmospheres within the range between 1% to 50% carbon dioxide and 1% to 15% oxygen at a relative humidity (RH) of 75%RH and 100%RH. For produce highly susceptible to mould, yeast and/or bacterial growth a RH of 75% to 80% will result in optimum quality retention. The container includes a plastic body, plastic lid and permeable film membrane hermetically sealed between the lid and the container. The plastic can be polyamide (nylon 6, 11, 12 or 66 and blends thereof), polycarbonate, polyethylene, polyethyleneterephthalate, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinylchloride, and mixtures thereof. The lid can be macro-perforated for a three piece application or micro-perforated for a two piece application. The film membrane can have different oxygen and carbon dioxide permeability rates for specific package volumes and specific produce respirations.