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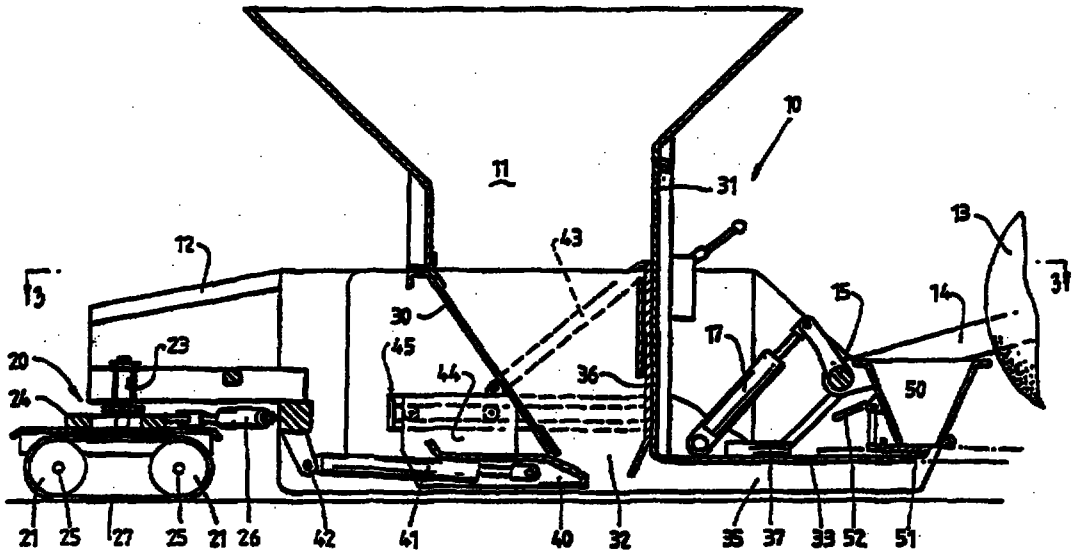
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(57) Abstract

An apparatus for laying sand and/or a sand/reinforcement matrix onto a pre-prepared surface, which apparatus includes a hopper (11) to provide the matrix to be laid, a plunger (40) at the forward end (30), in the sense of the direction of movement of the apparatus, of the hopper (11) and means (41) whereby the plunger (40) can be reciprocated to take material from the hopper and deliver it through an extrusion aperture (32) in the rear thereof to an extrusion mould (34, 35), the extrusion being effected by the machine moving forwardly as pressure is applied to the matrix to be extruded and the mould passes over the matrix. The invention also includes apparatus which can remove the top soil from a surface, add reinforcement thereto and re-locate the matrix so formed in place of the material removed. The invention also describes apparatus to deliver the matrix material to a distribution machine, whilst the apparatus of the invention is delivering completed material. Also described are methods, specifically methods which use the apparatus to lay matrix material on prepared, normally sand, surfaces.