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PLANT POT STAND

This invention relates to plant pot stands, and particularly to stands for pot plants that require periodic watering and or treatment with plant growth regulators, such as fertilizers or nutrients or the like.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

Many plant pots have a hole in the bottom to allow surplus water from plant watering to escape to prevent the plant or the soil in the pot from becoming water-logged or, when a plant requires watering from below to allow water to be drawn up into the pot by capillary effects when the pot is stood in water.

Various forms of plant pot stand have been known for years. Some are usually intended to stand on the ground, indoors or outdoors, and are relatively tall to ensure that a pot plant on the stand is at a desired height, approximately waist height to the average adult, so that it can be properly seen. Others are intended to stand on ledges, such as shelves, window sills or indeed on any flat surface, and simply provide a support to protect the surface from damage by the plant pot or by materials escaping therefrom.

In addition to customized pot plant stands many other articles are commonly used to provide protection to a surface on which a plant pot rests, such articles being, for example, earthenware, pottery, china, plastic or metal dishes or bowls, saucers and plates. Even household articles and crockery items are frequently used.

Bowls and saucers and other articles with sufficient depth are also used to catch surplus water from watering of the plant or to hold water when the plant requires watering from below.

Pot plant stands are not only used indoors they are also used outdoors in green houses and other plant propagation areas both in gardens and nurseries.

Growing plants, of course, require periodic watering and, maybe, feeding with, for example, fertilizers, plant growth regulators or may have to be treated with insecticides or other products that ensure that a plant on display always looks its best. With growing pot plants it is difficult to estimate the amount of water that is needed at any given time when water is delivered directly to the plant and the growing medium in the pot from above. Any excess water drains through the hole in the base of the pot and collects in the receptacle in which the pot stands. If the amount of excess is very large the water may overflow the receptacle and spill onto the surface on which the pot and receptacle are stood or onto, for example, a carpeted or polished floor, often with damaging effect. If water stands around for some time it can form a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other undesirable life forms and after a period it can start to smell unpleasant. When plant feeds are applied, whether dissolved in the water or otherwise they can appear in the excess water and, if large quantities of water are used, as for example in a nursery the water run-off can have a deleterious environmental effect.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides a plant pot stand that avoids these problems.

According to the invention, a plant pot stand comprises a hollow body that is closed at one end on which a plant pot is intended to stand, except for a central region that has a bore through which to allow water to pass from the pot into the body, and a removable water collector with a wall configured to blend with the wall of the body, the collector extending into the body below the bore and being a tight fit with the body to prevent access to breeding insects.

The pot plant stand preferably has a gauge associated with the water collector and which is readable from outside the body to record the level of water in the collector so that it can be emptied before it overflows.

The body is preferably open on its base and may be of any shape, but is preferably circular in section. Preferably, to improve stability, it tapers slightly, by a matter of a few degrees, from the base to the top. The body may be provided with internal strengthening walls extending parallel to each other from the top to the base and formed integrally with the walls of the body.

The water collector is preferably in the form of a drawer in the bottom section of the base and which fits tightly, but is smoothly slidable, between the walls of the body or, especially when the body is of circular section, between a pair of strengthening walls.

The top surface of the body may be somewhat concave around the central bore to direct water through the bore. The bore may have a spider mounting an internally pointing spigot to control and direct water into the collector.

The plant pot stand of the invention may be made of any desired material, with the proviso that the water collector has to be removable without water spillage. Preferably it is made from a rigid plastics material, especially a

structural plastics material, for example, ABS, polypropylene, nylon or polystyrene.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention will now be described in greater detail, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a side view of one form of plant pot stand according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a top view of the plant pot stand of Figure 1;

Fig. 3 is a section through Fig 2 on line 3-3; and

Fig 4 is a section through Fig. 2 on line 4-4.

As shown in the drawings, the plant pot stand comprises a frusto-conical body 1 having a top 2 that is closed except for a central bore 3. Within bore 3 is a spider 4 that mounts an internally extending spigot 5 for controlling and directing flow of water through bore 3. The top 2 surface of body 1 is slightly concave at least around bore 3 to direct water to bore 3.

The base to height ratio of body 1 is about 1:1 and the taper angle is about 5°. The body 1 has a pair of internal strengthening walls 6 integral with the top 2 and wall 7. A rectangular opening 8 is formed in wall 7 between strengthening walls 6 and a drawer 9 having a width substantially the same as the spacing between walls 6 slides on runners (not shown) formed on the inwardly facing surfaces of walls 6. The outward end 10 of drawer 9 is curved and dimensioned to conform to opening 8 so that when drawer 9 is fully pushed home its outward end tightly closes opening 8.

A sight glass 11 is formed in outer wall 10 to show the level of liquid in drawer 9.

CLAIMS

1. A plant pot stand comprising a hollow body (1) that is closed at one end (2) on which a plant pot is intended to stand, except for a central region that has a bore (3) through which to allow water to pass from the pot into the body (1), and a removable water collector (9) with a wall configured to blend with the wall of the body, the collector (7) extending into the body (1) below the bore (3) and being a tight fit with the body (1) to prevent access to breeding insects.

2. A pot plant stand according to claim 1, which has a gauge associated with the water collector and which is readable from outside the body to record the level of water in the collector.

3. A pot plant stand according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the body is open on its base.

4. A pot plant stand according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the body is of circular section.

5. A pot plant stand according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the body tapers by a matter of a few degrees from the base to the top.

6. A pot plant stand according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the body is provided with internal strengthening walls extending parallel to each other from the top to the base and formed integrally with the walls of the body.

7. A pot plant stand according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the water collector is in the form of a drawer in the bottom section of the base and which fits tightly but is smoothly slidable between the walls of the body or between a pair of strengthening walls.

8. A pot plant stand according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the bore has a spider mounting an internally pointing spigot to control and direct water into the collector.

9. A pot plant stand according to any one of claims 1 to 8, which is made from rigid plastics material.