

[54] **SPECIAL LOCKING CLIP WITH APPARATUS FOR CARRYING PLURAL PLANTS TO A WATERING STATION**

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[*] Notice: The portion of the term of this patent subsequent to Oct. 22, 2002 has been disclaimed.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[58] Field of Search 47/17, 1.1, 1.5, 1.7, 47/67, 65, 48.5, 40.5; 224/268; 141/140; 17/14; 198/678; 248/304, 340

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus for carrying plants periodically to a watering station while ensuring that said plants are uniformly exposed to light. The apparatus includes at least one conveyor in the form of an endless cable disposed about a pair of spaced drums. One of the drums is driven by a motor to cause the cable to be circulated about the drums. The cable supports a plurality of plant hangers at spaced locations there along. Each hanger is arranged so that when a plant is suspended therefrom it is in a first orientation arranged to trip a sensor at the watering station to water the plant. The hanger is also arranged to automatically assume a second orientation when no plant is suspended therefrom. In the second orientation the hanger does not trip the sensor at the watering station. The cable is arranged to be driven at a slower speed during watering operations and at a higher speed during plant loading and unloading operations. By virtue of the movement of the conveyor through the greenhouse each plant is uniformly exposed to light reaching the conveyor.

The present invention also includes a special form of the hanger means having a locking clip, so that the hanger means will be positively held on the conveyor means.

4 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures

