

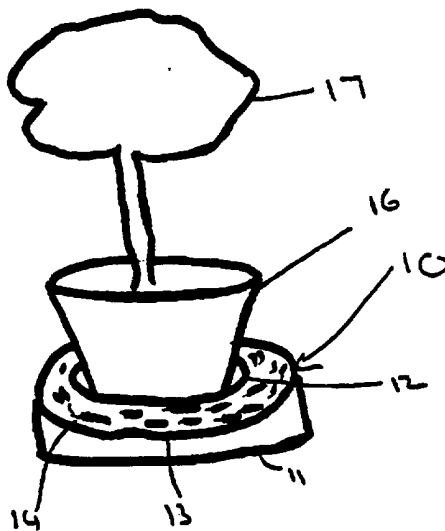
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(54) Abstract Title  
**A trap for protecting plants from animals or insects**

(57) A trap 10 for animals such as slugs which eat plants comprises a device which surrounds a plant 17 or plant holder 16 to be protected and has a channel 14 which can be filled with water. The plant-eating pest has to cross the water barrier to get to the plant 17. Preferably, the trap 10 comprises two halves which can be releasably joined together to surround the plant 17, the joins being fluid-tight. The trap 10 may be ring shaped, and may be sized to surround only one plant. Repellent or poisonous chemicals may be placed in the trough instead of water. When the trough 14 is filled with water it may act as a reservoir from which the plant draws water, and will help to increase the water vapour content of the air surrounding the plant.



**FIG. 3**

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At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995

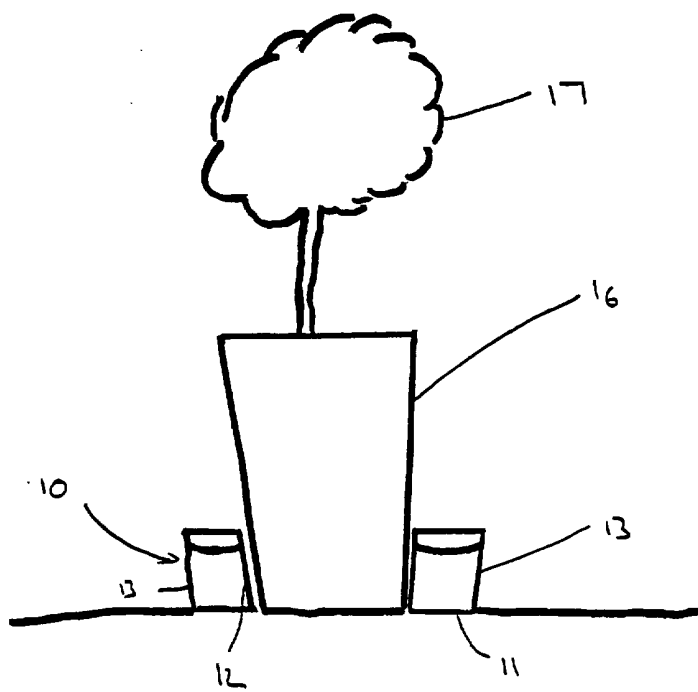


FIG. 1

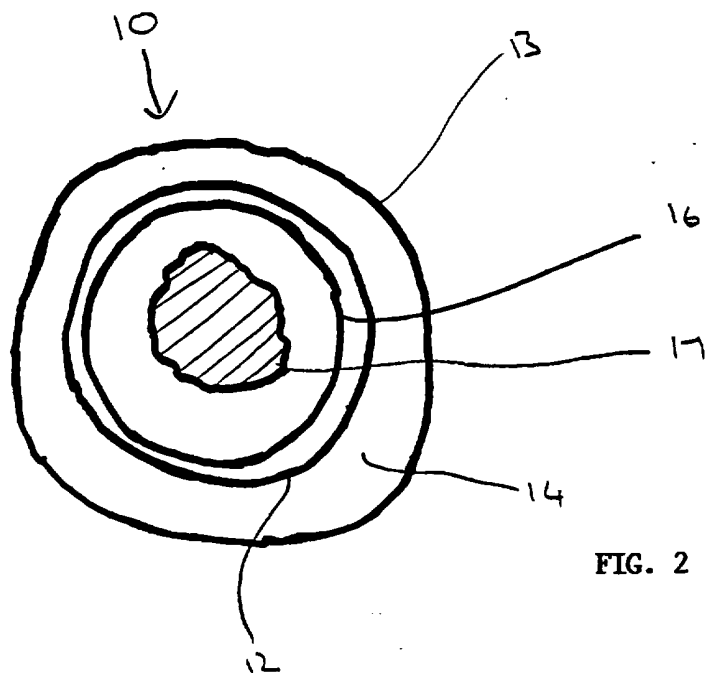


FIG. 2

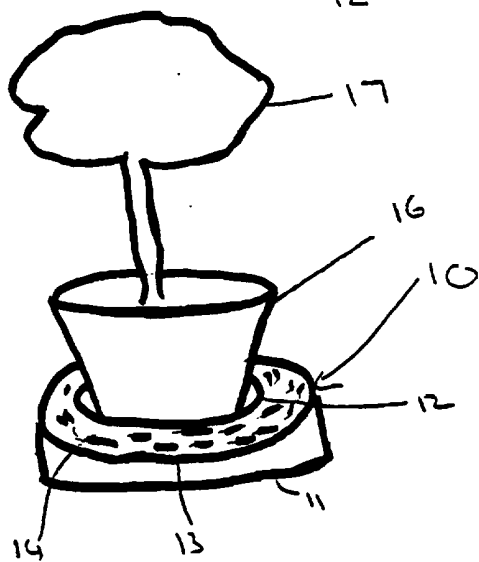


FIG. 3

**A TRAP**

The present invention relates to a trap. More particularly, the present invention relates to a trap used to trap plant-eating animals, for example, slugs.

It is well known that plant-eating animals, for example, slugs and other members of the gastropod mollusc family, can cause a lot of damage to plants.

With a view to preventing such plant-eating animals from causing any damage to such plants, it is known to spray the plants with various chemicals that poison and/or repel such plant-eating animals from said plants. The problem associated with such chemicals is that they can be harmful to humans, and/or other animals for which the chemicals are not intended, that may inadvertently come into contact with said chemicals.

With the particular application of killing slugs, it is known to place poison-filled containers at various locations around a garden. On falling into such poison-filled containers, such slugs are killed. Once again, the problem associated with such containers is that the poison contained therein, may be harmful to humans, and/or other animals for which the poisons are not intended, which may inadvertently come into contact with such poison. Additionally, and in order to efficiently protect a particular plant by utilising a container of this type, one would need to totally surround the plant or plant pot, within which the plant may be located, with such containers. This is not only unsightly, but also, expensive.

According to the present invention there is provided an animal trap which, in use, surrounds or substantially surrounds a plant holder or plant, the trap being provided with a channel which can be filled with a fluid and which surrounds or substantially surrounds the plant holder or plant.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an animal trap believed to address the problems outlined above. In particular, the trap of the present invention is adapted to surround a plant holder or plant and is more efficient and less unsightly than the known traps outlined above. Additionally, the present invention forgoes the need to use any chemicals, poisonous or otherwise, which may be harmful to humans and/or other animals for which the chemicals are not intended, which may inadvertently come into contact with such chemicals.

In a preferred embodiment, the trap of the present invention comprises two halves, each half being releasably connectable to the other half in a watertight manner. This has the advantage in that in order to locate the trap around a plant holder or plant, it is not necessary to lift the plant holder, which may be large and/or heavy. Additionally, this forgoes the need for having to place the trap over the top of the plant, which may be large, before being able to locate the trap around the plant holder or plant. Further preferably, the trap of the present invention comprises a ring member upon which is provided a channel which can be filled with a fluid, said ring member being formed from two halves which are releasably connectable to one another.

One, non-limiting, embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a cross section view of a trap in accordance with the present invention shown surrounding a plant holder;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the trap and plant holder of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a front perspective view from one side of the trap and plant holder of Figure 1.

As illustrated in the accompanying drawings, a trap 10 in accordance with the present invention is ring-shaped and comprises a base 11 upon which is mounted an inner wall 12 and an outer wall 13. Such inner wall 12 and the outer wall 13 provide a channel 14, which can be filled with water.

As illustrated, in use, the trap 10 is shaped such that it may surround a plant holder 16 with a plant 17 located therein. Once filled with water, the trap 10 acts as a water trap to slugs. That is, a slug, which is unable to fly, needs to pass over the trap 10 to reach the plant 17 located in the plant holder 16. On doing so, the slug will fall into the water filled channel 14 and will drown.

In a preferred unillustrated embodiment, the trap 10 is made up of two halves, each half being releasably connectable to the other in a known watertight manner. This has the advantage in that if the plant holder 16 is heavy and/or large, the two halves of the trap 10 can be placed around the plant holder 16 before being connected to one another. That is, this forgoes the need of having to lift the plant holder 16 in order to locate the trap 10 in an appropriate manner. Additionally, this also forgoes the need of having to force the trap 10 over a plant 17, which may be large, in order to locate the trap 10 such that it surrounds the plant 17.

Although the present invention has been described by way of example to trapping and killing slugs, it is to be understood that same can be used to trap any plant-eating animal, especially those which are incapable of flying. Additionally, it is to be understood that the trap of the present invention can also be sized such that it surrounds a plant only. Furthermore, it is to be understood that the channel provided by the trap of the present invention may be filled with poisonous or repellent chemicals.

Furthermore, the skilled person will realise that when filled with water, the trap of the present invention can be connected to the plant such that the trap can act as a water reservoir from which the plant can draw water. Moreover, the trap of the present invention when filled with water and surrounding a plant, will increase the water vapour content of the air surrounding the plant, which the skilled person will appreciate is beneficial to plant growth.

CLAIMS

1. An animal trap which, in use, surrounds or substantially surrounds a plant holder or plant, the trap being provided with a channel which can be filled with fluid and which surrounds or substantially surrounds the plant holder or plant.
2. An animal trap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the trap comprises two halves, each half being releasably connectable to the other half in a fluid tight manner.
3. An animal trap as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the trap is ring shaped.
4. A slug trap which, in use, surrounds or substantially surrounds a plant holder or plant, the trap being provided with a channel which can be filled with fluid and which surrounds or substantially surrounds the plant holder or plant.
5. An animal or slug trap substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.





Application No: GB 9815141.8  
Claims searched: 1-5

Examiner: Emma McLean  
Date of search: 20 April 1999

**Patents Act 1977  
Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.Q): A1E (EAJ)

Int CI (Ed.6): A01G 13/10; A01M 1/10, 23/00

Other: Online: EPODOC

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2 227 637 A (LOWE)	1, 3, 4
X	GB 2 187 924 A (VANN)	1, 3, 4
X	GB 2 146 882 A (HOPWOOD)	1, 3, 4
X	US 5 170 584 (PERRY)	1, 4
X	US 4 800 676 (LOCKWOOD)	1, 3

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.