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[54] **METHODS FOR LYOPHILIZING AND USING ERICOID MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **435/260; 435/254.1; 435/911; 504/117**

[58] **Field of Search** **435/260, 254.1, 435/911; 504/117**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is directed to a method for preserving mycorrhizal fungi for long-term storage using lyophilization. This enables use of the fungi for growing and acclimatizing micropropagated plants. The invention is especially useful for preserving mycorrhizal ericoid fungi for long-term storage and use in a soilless medium for growing micropropagated ericaceous plants.

13 Claims, No Drawings