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Improved method of recovering sucrose.

An improved method of recovering sucrose from plant-derived aqueous solutions is provided. The method comprises contacting an aqueous sucrose-containing solution derived from plant juice, such as sugar cane or sugar beet juice with aliphatic carboxylic acid having an average carbon chain length of about 2-6, in a concentration sufficient to selectively precipitate a substantial amount of sucrose from the solution. The precipitate is then separated and recovered and the depleted solution can be recycled. Preferably the sucrose-containing solution is concentrated to about 55-96 Brix before the contacting and the contacting is carried out by rapidly adding the sucrose-containing solution to the acid in order to assure rapid growth of large sucrose crystals for maximum sucrose recovery. The sucrose-containing solution before concentrating can be any solution obtained prior to molasses formation; e.g. untreated diffusion juice, prelimed and/or predefecated diffusion juice, purified diffusion juice or even a solution formed by reconstituting from raw recovered sugar; alternatively, it can be a solution after molasses formation, in which event the selected acid, if it includes acetic acid, only includes it in a mixture with other aliphatic carboxylic acids. It may also be waste fluid from a canning operation or the like.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 83 30 8016

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
X	DE-C- 20 595 (A. WERNICKE) * Whole document *	1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	C 13 F 1/02 C 13 J 1/02
X	BE-A- 521 232 (BRAUNSCHWEIGISCHE MASCHINENBAUANSTALT) * Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9 *	1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	
A	US-A-1 558 554 (C.G. LEONIS) * Claim 1 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			C 13 F C 13 J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19-10-1984	Examiner VAN MOER A.M.J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	