

9

- (c) a fourth actuator that is adapted to pivot the center section about a generally vertical pivot axis with respect to the lift assembly;
 - (d) a controller for controlling the operation of the first linear actuator, the second linear actuator, the third actuator and the fourth actuator, which controller is adapted to operate the broom assembly in a work mode:
 - (i) in which the controller allows the first linear actuator to shift the left side plate towards the left open position while the second linear actuator shifts the right side plate towards the right closed position;
 - (ii) in which the controller allows the second linear actuator to shift the right side plate towards the right open position while the first actuator shifts the left side plate towards the left closed position;
 - (iii) in which the controller allows the third actuator to raise and lower the center section with respect to the vehicle through a range of motion that is less than that which the third actuator is capable of achieving;
 - (iv) in which the controller allows the fourth actuator to pivot the center section about a generally vertical pivot axis to the extent of the capability of the fourth actuator.
8. The broom assembly of claim 7 wherein the controller is adapted to operate the broom assembly in a maintenance mode:
- (a) in which the controller allows the first linear actuator to shift the left side plate towards the left open position only while the second linear actuator shifts the right side plate towards the right open position;
 - (b) in which the controller allows the first linear actuator to shift the left side plate towards the left closed position only while the second linear actuator shifts the right side plate towards the right closed position;
 - (c) in which the controller allows the third actuator to raise and lower the center section with respect to the vehicle through the entire range of motion that the third actuator is capable of achieving.
9. A broom assembly for attachment to a vehicle, which assembly is adapted to rotate a brush having a tubular core, said broom assembly comprising:
- (a) a pair of side plates, including a left side plate and a right side plate;
 - (b) a pair of hubs, including an idle hub on one of the side plates and a drive hub on the other of the side plates, said pair of hubs defining a core axis about which the brush is rotated;
 - (c) a left rod that is generally parallel to the core axis and is attached to the left side plate;
 - (d) a right rod that is generally parallel to the core axis and is attached to the right side plate;
 - (e) a center section comprising:
 - (i) a left tube that is generally parallel to the core axis and is adapted to receive the left rod in sliding engagement therewith;
 - (ii) a left side linear actuator that is adapted to apply a linear force between the center section and the left side plate to move the left side plate with respect to the center section along an axis that is parallel to the core axis;
 - (iii) a right tube that is generally parallel to the core axis and is adapted to receive the right rod in sliding engagement therewith;
 - (iv) a right side linear actuator that is adapted to apply a linear force between the center section and the right

10

- side plate to move the right side plate with respect to the center section along an axis that is parallel to the core axis.
10. The broom assembly of claim 9 wherein:
- (a) the idle hub:
 - (i) includes an idle hub back plate;
 - (ii) includes an idle hub central tube that is attached to the idle hub back plate and is adapted to receive one end of the tubular core of the brush;
 - (iii) includes a plurality of idle hub core support plates that are attached to the idle hub back plate and spaced around the idle hub central tube and oriented radially with respect thereto, with each such idle hub core support plate having an inner radial edge adjacent to the idle hub central tube that is tapered outwardly from the idle hub back plate;
 - (iv) is adapted to rotate with respect to the side plate with which it is associated;
 - (b) the drive hub:
 - (i) includes a drive hub back plate;
 - (ii) includes a drive hub central tube that is attached to the drive hub back plate and is adapted to receive one end of the tubular core of the brush;
 - (iii) includes a plurality of drive hub core support plates that are attached to the drive hub back plate and spaced around the drive hub central tube and oriented radially with respect thereto, with each such drive hub core support plate having an inner radial edge adjacent to the drive hub central tube that is tapered outwardly from the drive hub back plate and an outer radial edge that is tapered outwardly from the drive hub back plate;
 - (iv) includes a rotary actuator that is adapted to rotate the drive hub with respect to the side plate with which it is associated.
11. The broom assembly of claim 9 which includes a cover assembly comprising:
- (a) a stationary cover that is fixed to the center section;
 - (b) a left side support that is attached to the left side plate;
 - (c) a left sliding cover that is attached to the left side support and adapted to slide with respect to the stationary cover as the left side plate moves with respect to the center section;
 - (d) a right side support that is attached to the right side plate;
 - (e) a right sliding cover that is attached to right side support and adapted to slide with respect to the stationary cover as the right side plate moves with respect to the center section.
12. The broom assembly of claim 9 which includes an actuator that is adapted to pivot the center section about a generally vertical pivot axis.
13. The broom assembly of claim 9 which comprises:
- (a) a lift assembly having a rear end and a front end, wherein the rear end is adapted to be attached to the vehicle, and the front end is attached to the center section;
 - (b) an actuator that is adapted to raise and lower the center section with respect to the vehicle.