



Up All Night

*Harvest Automation Robots
Working Night and Day at
Flowerwood Nursery*

Began as the backyard hobby of Harry H. Smith, Flowerwood Nursery was incorporated as a nursery in 1946. Today Flowerwood is a third-generation family-owned wholesale nursery selling only to the trade with locations in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Flowerwood provides broadleaf evergreens, conifers, deciduous shrubs, grasses, groundcovers, trees, perennials, and seasonal color throughout the Southern and Mid-Atlantic states.

Flowerwood Nursery specializes in improved products, including the many varieties of Encore® Azalea, offering more blooms, more often.

Selections like Encore Azaleas, the Southern Living® Plant Collection, Endless Summer® Hydrangeas, the Knock Out® Rose, and Anthony Tesselaar products (along with other known industry favorites) help create a product mix designed to satisfy the needs of retail garden centers and professional landscapers.

Over the years Flowerwood experienced many of the problems common to operations reliant on manual labor to complete the most difficult and repetitive tasks. Spacing plants is the most repetitive and physically

demanding task in a Nursery or Greenhouse, but it is arguably the most critical. Workers who can move plants at a rate of hundreds of pots per hour for short periods will quickly slow to a fraction of that as the day wears on. Repeatedly bending and picking up a plant that weighs up to 22 pounds for 8 hours a day under the hot sun not only tires a person, but can lead to debilitating back injuries, lost work days and expensive workers compensation claims. With tough work conditions to

offer Flowerwood found that it was difficult to both recruit and retain its manual labor workforce. And in the critical spring season when both spacing and shipping must be done,

the demand on the HR team to find and replace workers was acute.

But this spring was different, thanks to the Harvest Automation HV-100 plant moving robots. Customers that have used the HV-100 to move plants have experienced a reduction in plant moving related injuries and a projected savings in worker's compensation insurance claims, along with the added benefit of a happier, healthier workforce leading to fewer lost work days and fewer instances of workers not showing up for



Free Robot Work

Harvest Automation is happy to announce that it is now offering 100% free robot work at no obligation. We will bring robots to your Greenhouse or Nursery for multiple days and our robot operators will space, consolidate or collect plants to any configuration that meets your production needs.

For details please contact Greg Timbol at (978) 528-4450 or gregt@harvestai.com.

work. But just as importantly all of the work has been completed on time. “We’re in the middle of our big spring shipping season, and the robots have allowed us to do our spacing on-time,” said Tom Meadows, Flowerwood Production Manager. “We have not pulled one person from shipping to assist with spacing.”

The HV-100 plant moving robots allow growers to do spacing all day long. Flowerwood Nursery is one grower that is taking advantage of this. “Before robots, there was no way we could do spacing at night,” said Tom. Previously it would have been too dangerous for workers to space plants at night with irrigation ditches and pipes that are hard to see even with illumination. Plus spacing accuracy is difficult under low light conditions. “The Harvest Automation robots can work night and day with the same level of productivity and accuracy.” The HV-100 does not rely on the availability of ambient lighting conditions, its sensors produce their own infrared light, and can navigate just as well in darkness as in light. This capability has allowed Flowerwood to extend the workday with double shifts in order to get all their spring spacing done on-time. Ultimately for Flowerwood this has led to higher profit margins with fewer workforce headaches.

For more information about Flowerwood Nursery, Inc. please visit <http://www.flowerwood.com/>.

To contact Harvest Automation sales to find information about our free robot work offer, to arrange an on-site demo or to discuss our flexible financing, leasing and short term rental program please call Greg Timbol at (978) 528-4450 or gregt@harvestai.com.

For more information about Harvest Automation and the HV-100, please see <http://www.harvestai.com>.

