



Come Fall many nursery operators who grow multi-year crops will begin to collect their spaced plants to a can-tight configuration. Years of experience and research has shown that damage to the crops over the winter can be prevented if plants are assembled together and covered or insulated. When spring and warmer weather comes they can be spaced once again to give plants the proper room to grow.

McCorkle Nurseries in Dearing, Georgia is one such grower. McCorkle Nurseries markets more than 4 million plants annually from its growing operations delivering to over 1,800 customers in the southeastern and mid-Atlantic states. The growing operation consists of an 820-acre farm of which 440 acres is currently in production. McCorkle's employees strive to exemplify its motto: "Quality First, Service Always." McCorkle Nurseries is committed to continual growth in producing and marketing quality plants while protecting and improving the environment. A large percentage of their crops grow an average of 24 months and require over-wintering.

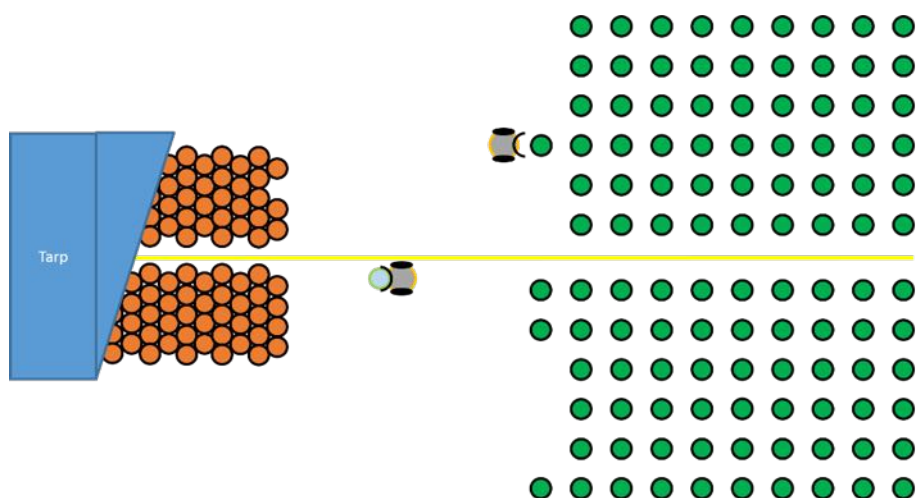
Harvest Automation robots can handle both ends of this operation. With the capability to space, consolidate and collect plants the HV-100 robots have the versatility needed for operations that have a variety of different plant needs.

**"We have plants in the field that have been growing for as many as 24-months ... and they haven't been touched by a person since the day they were potted"**

**Chris McCorkle**



**SMART. PRACTICAL. SUSTAINABLE.**



When new plants are potted, they're set down on a field can-tight in a continuous load that stretches the length of the fields. The can-tight configuration is carefully calculated to have the proper number of plants on the field when fully spaced. When the time comes in the spring, HV-100 robots take to the fields and space the plants. For their multi-year plants, in late Fall the robots are called upon once again to collect the plants into the same can-tight configuration that they were originally laid down to. In the

figure above two robots in adjacent beds collect plants to a common edge of the bed so that a single tarp can be used for winter protection.

The McCorkle team is well into their second season with Harvest Automation HV-100 robots and has seen the benefits. "We have many plants in the field that have been growing for as many as 24-months; they've been spaced, collected and spaced again and they haven't been touched by a person since the day they were potted," said Chris McCorkle, Operations Manager of the Luckey's Bridge and Neals Mill Farms. "Our operation has become much more efficient as a result."

Robots can be configured to build loads with as many plants across a row as can fit on a bed, in either a hex or square pattern and at any plant spacing and bed position that is desired. The HV-100 plant moving robots allow growers to move plants night and day, as long as there is work to be done. Harvest Automation robots are meant for year-round use, with capabilities for spacing plants in the Spring, consolidating (re-spacing) picked over fields from Summer into Fall and collecting plants to can-tight at the end of the growing season for Winter protection. For operations large and small the HV-100 makes sense for any Nursery or Greenhouse. Getting quality work done when it's needed most.

For more information about McCorkle Nurseries, Inc. please visit <http://www.mccorklenurseries.com>.

Contact Harvest Automation to find information about our introductory \$1,250/month robot rental program; please call (978) 528-4250 or email [info@harvestai.com](mailto:info@harvestai.com).

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

