

POT HOLDERS

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Greenhouse costs studies list labor as the largest single expense encountered by growers in producing crops. This cost varies from 30-40% of the total for growing a given crop. Thus any reduction or lowering of labor costs will have the largest impact on the total figure.

In a typical pot plant range, the pots are frequently moved several times during the production cycle. Handling the pots as single units is labor intensive and time consuming. By comparison bedding plant growers handle the individual paks in trays which contain 6, 8, or 12 units.

In a similar fashion, trays are now molded which enable pots, in some cases, to be prespaced (figure 1). This likewise allows a grower to move pots in groups rather than as single units, resulting in a savings of labor and effort. Although this type of carrying tray may appear expensive, the labor savings made will quickly pay off this investment.

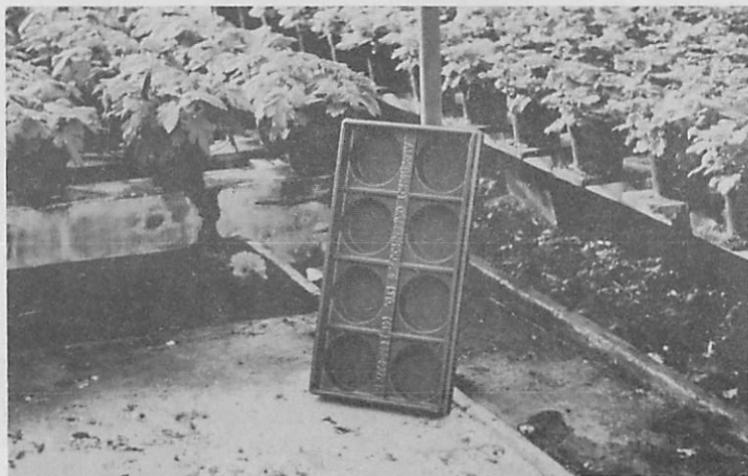


Figure 1. Prespaced tray.

Another device, a spaced fork, allows growers to scoop up many pots at one time and set them on another bench. This forked scoop has spacers which can accommodate different sized pots.

Use of these types of trays, scoops, or other devices will significantly reduce handling time and effort.