

Lean Flow in the Green Industry

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Abstract

Labor is typically the biggest slice of the cost pie in the Green Industry. Whether we are in a strong or weak economy, labor efficiency is a paramount issue. FlowVision’s Lean Flow methodology works to make your employees more efficient. We work together with your team to come up with the most appropriate solutions for your business, and then we

will guide you to bring those concepts and visions to reality. We have developed several concepts that have increased productivity, improved quality, reduced credits/claims, and drastically reduced overtime during the busy shipping season. Two of the biggest areas of benefits are in Progressive Work and Dock Shipping Supermarket.

INTRODUCTION

FlowVision was founded in 1998 with expertise in lean flow business practices and supply chain management. By offering a complete suite of lean services from consulting to patented software, we have demonstrated that we are able to solve any supply-chain or process challenges that our customers have. We have hundreds of global customers in a variety of verticals, ranging from small startups to Fortune 500 companies.

In 2003, we worked with our first Green Industry customer in Homestead,

Florida, an orchid and bromeliad grower. Since that first successful implementation, we have worked with more than 200 growers. In 2013, we introduced our Rack Item Optimizer (RIO) software solution. RIO allows our Green Industry customers to increase productivity at the loading dock by optimizing racks to increase payload while enabling sales teams to dynamically upsell their customers who are receiving less than full racks. Our customers are now seeing an increase in payload and their trucks are going out at 97% full.

Master Pull report								Master Pull #	2
								Farm:	FV
								Zone:	A
								Load Date:	9/1/2017
Location	Item Number	Description	ContainerID	Height ID	Qty To Ship	Rack Req	Rack Seq	Comments	
A01	100020	2.25-GAL ALMOND FLOWERING	3G	H07	270	4.23	1,2,3,4,5		
A03	100125	2.25-GAL FLORNYMUS BRNING BUSH	3G	H05	10	0.11	5		
A05	100151	SYRINGA LILAC 3G ASST DFN	3G	H04	10	0.08	5		
A04	100112	2.25-GAL FORSYTHIA ASSORTED	3G	H06	160	2.12	6,7,8		
A06	100051	2.25-GAL PUSSEWILLOW ASSORTED	3G	H11	180	4.55	9,10,11,12,13		
A09	100021	2.25-GAL BOXWOOD WINTERGREEN	3G	H04	360	3.04	14,15,16,17		
A08	100097	2.25-GAL QUINCE ASSORTED	3G	H03	20	0.12	17		
A11	100022	2.50-QT NANOINA FIREPOWER DWARF	1G	H04	224	0.59	17		
A10	100125	2.50-QT BOXWOOD WINTERGREEN	1G	H04	128	0.34	18		
A13	100024	2.25-GAL YEW UPRIGHT	3G	H05	270	2.93	19,20,21		
A12	100023	2.25-GAL YEW SPREADING	3G	H04	100	0.84	22		
A15	100052	2.50-QT SPRUCE COLORADO BLUE	1G	H04	160	0.42	23		
A17	100025	2.5 QT ARBORVITAE EMERALD GREE	1G	H03	352	0.66	24		
A16	100053	2.5 QT SPRUCE ALBERTA DWARF	1G	H03	160	0.30	24		
A18	100026	2.50-QT BOXWOOD WINTERGEM	1G	H04	672	1.77	25,26		
A21	100055	3.25-GAL BOXWOOD GREEN MOUNTAIN	5G	H07	160	3.13	27,28,29,30		
A20	100054	2.50-QT JUNIPER OLD GOLD	1G	H02	224	0.25	30		
A23	100002	ILEX DWF BURFORD HOLLY 3G PRD	3G	H06	310	8.22	31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39		
A22	100001	ILEX DWF YAUPON HOLLY 3G PRD	3G	H04	100	0.84	40		
A25	100056	2.25-GAL VIBURNUM ASSORTED	3G	H04	80	0.67	41		
A24	100027	2.25-GAL PHOTINIA RED TIP	3G	H06	10	0.13	41		
A24	51169018	BOX GRN VELVET	18" BR	H06	6	0.00	41		
A24	65300036	FLORNYMUS ALATUS COMP	36" BR	H06	6	0.00	41		
A26	100174	ALTHEA APHRODITE PK N03	3G	H05	10	0.11	41		
A27	100028	2.50-QT LILAC ASSORTED	1G	H02	23	0.03	41		
A28	100057	2.25-GAL BOXWOOD WINTERGEM	3G	H04	80	0.67	42		
A30	100029	2.5 QT JUNIPER BLUE STAR	1G	H02	064	0.98	43		
A32	100058	2.50-QT FLORNYMUS GOLDEN	1G	H03	64	0.12	44		
A50	100002	ILEX DWF BURFORD HOLLY 3G PRD	3G	H06	30	0.80	44		

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Figure 3. Example of master pull report used in Dock Shipping Supermarket.

There is then another crew that picks or shops the orders from a smaller footprint, which is the “Supermarket”. The pickers are then given a rack sheet/sticker, which tells them what to put on the rack (Fig. 4). The rack sheet used is based on FlowVision’s patented algorithms. The racks are optimized to have as little air as possible.

Once the order is picked, if required, the rack is then taken to a processing table to be cleaned; tagged and labeled; and then staged.

Regardless of whether you ship to big-box retailers, wholesalers, retail garden centers, or landscapers, FlowVision’s Dock Shipping Supermarket can improve your shipping process. Typically, our customers see improvements of 15-40% in productivity, reduced overtime, and fewer credit/claims.

Lean Flow has been around since the creation of Henry Ford’s assembly line. It has been implemented successfully around the world in every industry from high tech products, tractors, motors, leather, and every widget you can imagine. Many growers in the Green Industry are now turning to Lean Flow to help them solve their labor issues.

Load Seq: 1 of 17		Load #OHIO		Drop #6	
Order Seq: 1 of 3		Order #SI-12222			
SM Rack	Shelf	Item	Description	Qty	Height
5	3	11878	ROSEMARY, Barbecue	28	34.5
5	3	15807	ROSEMARY, Barbecue	10	34.5
5	3	11882	ROSEMARY, Common	19	22.5
12	2	20711	SENECIO crassissimus	80	46.5
22	1	60147	ROSEMARY, Barbecue	160	6.5

Load Date: 2/2/2018 Printed Date: 2/9/2018

SI-12222

Fig. 4. Example of rack sheet/sticker used in Dock Shipping Supermarket.

Learn more at www.flowvision.com.