

Success Story



Tropical Gardens

...is located in Mosinee, Wisconsin. They are producers and wholesalers of tropical plants and plant accessories, and distribute to plant retailers all over the upper Midwest. They have been in business for over 25 years. Thirty people work at this facility.

“We have become believers in lean manufacturing! The events with NWMOC were tailored just for us, and they have helped us think differently and improve our operation. Every company should learn how to apply these principles.”
Rick Barnes, CEO

❁ Assistance

Value Stream Mapping, Culture of Continuous Improvement, 5-S Visual Workplace

❁ Situation

Tropical Gardens is a company with a long and successful history. But like all companies today, they are experiencing tremendous pressures to maintain margins and keep their business strong.

❁ Project

Two years ago Rick attended a lunch-time seminar about lean manufacturing put on by the NWMOC. This has led to a lasting relationship with NWMOC. Since that time Tropical Gardens has done many value stream maps, made changes to several of their processes, reduced non-value-added activities, and developed a continuous improvement strategy that continues to sustain itself. Just some of the projects that have been completed so far:

- ✓ Value stream map, and improvements, to product flow
- ✓ Value stream maps, and improvements, to administrative functions
- ✓ 5-S Maintenance area
- ✓ 5-S Main greenhouse
- ✓ 5-S Cleaning supplies and chemical storage areas
- ✓ 5-S North House work area

Many more projects are in the team’s Action Queue.

❁ Results

- ✓ Productivity improved
- ✓ Reduction in heating costs
- ✓ Improved profit margin
- ✓ Better utilization of floor space
- ✓ More employee involvement
- ✓ Increased morale and pride

