

Buffer conveyor system

Nowadays potting machines have a high working speed, which generates a new bottleneck: moving the filled pots away and putting them down quickly. Therefore demtec® developed **the buffer conveyor system**, improving efficiency and reducing labour costs. The buffer conveyor system is used in conjunction with the potting machine:

- the pots leave the potting machine on the exit conveyor
- the pots are counted on the pot accumulator where they are prepared for travel to the loading robot
- on the loading robot conveyor, the pots are accurately positioned in line one behind the other with perfect pot spacing



- once the loading robot conveyor is full, the pots are moved automatically onto the buffer table in line
- the pots are removed from the buffer table by the operator of the fork lift or tractor using the fork attachment (single or double layer) fitted to the front of the tractor or the fork lift

Comments of Gerrard, owner of Payneham Plants in Australia:
'the demtec® buffer conveyor system is worth its weight in gold.

The labour savings are phenomenal. Instead of using 7 staff and 2 or 3 tractors (2 potters, 1 person loading up pots, 4 people taking plants away and putting down), we now only use 1 tractor/driver and 2 potters! Not only does this save on wages, it means we can be more flexible about when we pot, as we don't need to wait until staff are free from other areas of the nursery, like despatch. It also means we don't have to employ extra agency staff who, more often than not, are inexperienced and not suited to the task. The tractor does the back-breaking work of lifting and putting down, where injuries were always a risk.'

