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ScottsMiracle-Gro marked a major milestone in 2018—our 150th anniversary. In 1868, upon his return from the Civil War, Orlando McLean Scott opened a small hardware store in Marysville, Ohio, where he sold clean seed to farmers. That humble start blossomed into who we are today—the global leader in products for lawn and gardening care, as well as hydroponic growing.

Our success is tied to many things: Willingness to reinvent ourselves as times change, commitment to quality, focus on innovation and devotion to the customers and consumers who count on us. Yet, at the very core of our success are those who make it happen—our associates. We strive to create a culture that empowers our associates across North America to succeed and grow in their own careers.

We express this value for people in tangible ways. When federal tax reform came into effect last year, we committed to sharing these savings with our associates. As a result we have increased pay for our hardworking hourly associates, enhanced our 401(k) program for all associates and continue exploring other improvements to our benefits plans.

Our commitments go far beyond our own associates. Helping people express themselves on their own piece of the Earth is at the core of why we do business. Caring for natural resources, especially water, soil and plants, ensures gardeners can continue to get out and make things grow today, and it also helps secure our future.

As we look ahead, our commitment to innovation and sustainability will continue. This year, we are introducing breakthrough technology in organic fertilizers while continuing to invest heavily in natural and organic ingredients for all of our controls lines. We also will reach our public commitment to remove neonicotinoids from outdoor garden control products ahead of schedule.

In addition to these product innovations, we will continue investing in strong environmental partnerships, helping young people unlock their inner potential and encouraging our associates to give back to their communities. We remain committed to connecting children and families to fresh food, outdoor play and the natural world through our community outreach programs. Last year, we made good on our promise to support 1,000 gardens and greenspaces across North America, as you’ll read later in this report.

SCOTTSMIRACLE-GRO IS THE LEADER IN THE LAWN AND GARDEN INDUSTRY. AS SUCH, WE EMBRACE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE INNOVATING IN WAYS THAT CARE FOR OUR ASSOCIATES, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES. THIS CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY REPORT SHOWS HOW WE ARE BRINGING THAT COMMITMENT TO LIFE AS WE PREPARE FOR OUR NEXT 150 YEARS.
INTRODUCTION

WE ARE THE WORLD’S LEADING PROVIDER OF CONSUMER LAWN AND GARDEN PRODUCTS AND NORTH AMERICA’S LARGEST PROVIDER OF HYDROPONICS GROWING PRODUCTS. SINCE 1868, WE HAVE EARNED CONSUMER TRUST BY PROVIDING PRODUCTS THAT HELP GARDENERS GROW THRIVING GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES. INSPIRED BY THE WORDS OF MIRACLE-GRO FOUNDER HORACE HAGEDORN TO “FIND A NEED AND FILL IT”, WE INVEST IN OUR ASSOCIATES, COMMUNITIES AND OPERATIONS TO ENSURE WE LEAVE OUR PIECE OF THE EARTH BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT.

Responsibility timeline

1868
O.M. Scott founds our company in Marysville, Ohio.

1944
The Scott Foundation is founded to support charitable and educational causes in the Marysville area.

1991
Horace Hagedorn announces the founding of the Miracle-Gro Kids Foundation.

2005
The LiveTotal Health program launches to provide tools to associates to embrace healthy lifestyles.
ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Corporate Responsibility Report provides information on the community, workplace and philanthropic investments made by ScottsMiracle-Gro and The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation through the end of our 2018 fiscal year. This includes updates on the achievement of each of our published 2010-2018 operational sustainability goals.

OUR ORIGINS

Founded by O.M. Scott in 1868 in Marysville, Ohio, we grew as a trusted provider of weed-free seeds for farmers and later, suburban homeowners. In 1995, Scotts merged with Stern’s Miracle-Gro Products, Inc. to form The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Still headquartered in Marysville today, we’ve grown to include industry-leading brands in gardening, lawns and pest controls with facilities throughout North America. We also are a leading provider for hydroponic growing through our wholly owned subsidiary, Hawthorne Gardening Company.
IMPROVING OUR OPERATIONS

In 2010, we set six sustainability goals to guide our core manufacturing operations over the following eight years. Covering the areas of waste, packaging, emissions, formulation, supply chain and community investment, these goals represented our best effort to define what it means for us to operate responsibly. Our commitment to these issues allowed us to meet or exceed each goal, in several cases ahead of schedule. The following pages provide more information on the goals and our work to achieve them.
MEETING AND EXCEEDING OUR SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

**FORMULATION**

**GOAL:** REMOVE PHOSPHORUS FROM OUR LAWN FOOD MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS

We removed phosphorus from our conventional lawn maintenance products in 2013. This achievement was the culmination of a decade’s work as we reformulated our maintenance fertilizers, reducing the amount of phosphorus used from 10,000 tons per year down to 0.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

**GOAL:** REDUCE EMISSIONS BY 20%

We increased efficiency by focusing on improvements to our distribution and warehousing network within the goal period. We also saved an estimated 50,000 gallons of diesel per year through route optimizations. As a result, we estimate these efforts allowed us to reduce our direct impact on emissions by 21% within the goal period.

**WASTE REDUCTION**

**GOAL:** REDUCE WASTE TO LANDFILL BY 50%

We surpassed this goal, reducing waste entering landfills by 54%. To achieve it, we aggressively pursued diversion strategies and ways to reuse materials or prevent waste altogether. Currently, our growing media facilities divert 86% of waste from landfills and 6 of our US plants reported zero waste to landfill status in 2018.

**SUPPLIER SUSTAINABILITY**

**GOAL:** SEE 90% OF SUPPLIERS ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY THRESHOLDS

We surveyed our top North American suppliers to track sustainability activities in the areas of waste, water and energy. Over the goal period, we saw the percentage of respondents who reported meeting our sustainability thresholds grow from 41% to the target rate of 90%.

**PACKAGING**

**GOAL:** INCREASE RECYCLED/RENEWABLE CONTENT TO 30% ACROSS OUR PACKAGING MATERIALS

Our product packaging contained on average 38% recycled or renewable content by 2018. When including pallets and cartons, this percentage was 68%. We also made strides in reducing the amount of material we use in our packaging.

**GREENSPACES**

**GOAL:** ESTABLISH 1,000 COMMUNITY GARDENS/GREENSPACES

We achieved this ambitious goal through grant funds, product donations, education and associate volunteer service to community groups across Central Ohio and North America. Our GRO1000 program supported more than 1,000 gardens and greenspaces across all 50 US states, including 126 pollinator gardens.
PROMOTING PESTICIDE SAFETY

For more than a century, we have earned consumer trust by providing high-quality pest control products that help gardeners grow and protect thriving gardens and landscapes. All of these products undergo rigorous testing to ensure they uphold regulatory guidelines for safe use around people, pets and the environment.
Committing to Responsible Use

As consumers seek to control pests in and around their homes, we work to ensure that our products can be used successfully and responsibly. Annually, we invest more than $30 million in research and development efforts through our state-of-the-art research facilities and external partners. R&D scientists seek to improve product effectiveness while continuing to meet regulatory safety standards.

We also partner with nonprofit organizations to educate consumers on responsible use and create community awareness programs. These organizations have helped us shape our consumer outreach efforts to increase awareness about the responsible use of pest control products, including how and where to apply, proper dosages and other guidance.

WE ARE ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR PRODUCTS, ACTIVE INGREDIENTS AND RAW MATERIALS.

Educating Consumers

We devote significant space on the products section of our corporate website to pesticide safety. We provide consumers with accurate, up-to-date information on our products, their active ingredients and our selection process.

Ortho® educates consumers by creating clear directions for use, precautionary information and first aid instructions on every product label. The brand offers further information including product use guides and pollinator protection tips on its website. For all ScottsMiracle-Gro products, consumers may access safety data sheets by searching for their product in an online database, located at www.scottsmlds.com.

ScottsMiracle-Gro is the exclusive marketing agent of Roundup® branded products, owned by Bayer. Roundup® provides video tutorials, a resource library and answers to frequently asked questions about the active ingredient in nonselective Roundup®, glyphosate, on its website.

Engaging Third Parties

We involve many partners, including leading academic universities and research centers, in testing and evaluating our products. We also engage with leading nonprofit organizations. In 2017, our Foundation began working with the Pollinator Stewardship Council to educate residential gardeners about the benefits of pollinators and the importance of protecting them in outdoor spaces. Through this partnership, the Council then began working with the Ortho® team to design an in-store consumer education campaign. This campaign will deliver responsible usage tips to retail shoppers nationwide beginning in 2019.

We take great pride in the science behind our products, both for safety and efficacy. We place high value on the world class scientific partners who develop the chemistry. We also highly value consumer trust in our products and work every day to uphold that trust. That includes providing products we know, and others have verified, are safe when used according to directions.
IMPROVING PACKAGING

We have achieved packaging milestones by optimizing our packaging systems and substituting more environmentally-friendly materials—without compromising product quality and integrity. In 2018 we incorporated more than 50 million pounds of recycled or renewable content in our packaging. The Scotts® Mini Eco spreader contains more than 91% recycled plastic content, and we continue looking for ways to increase recycled content across all of our durable goods.

Over the past two years, we have reduced our use of plastic film by 1.8 million pounds and removed 250,000 pounds of polypropylene plastic from hose-end sprayers and bottle caps. Finally, in 2019 our Miracle-Gro® Performance Organics® soil and plant food packages include 25% Braskem’s bio based “I’m Green”™ plastic made from renewable sugarcane.
REDUCING WASTE

We are relentless in our effort to find a product solution that is a win for the environment, consumers and business. Green waste recycling is an example of one solution, offering the opportunity to divert waste from landfills by incorporating it into beneficial products. We continue leading in utilizing green waste, incorporating 5 billion pounds annually of woody and green biomass into our products.

Several of our production facilities are moving beyond green waste to examine the environmental and economic potential of using food compost to enrich potting soils and other growing media. Procurement, R&D, sales and operations teams work together to find food waste—such as coffee, tea leaves, fruit and potatoes—that meets stringent criteria for inclusion in our products. These criteria include:

• High nutrient value
• Screening for foreign debris, such as plastic or glass
• Local sourcing within 100-150 miles of the production facility

In 2017, Lebanon, Connecticut, became the first growing media facility to pilot the Next Generation Compost project, incorporating cranberry waste into our soils. The project spread in 2018 to facilities in Jackson, Georgia; Cresson, Texas; and Maricopa, Arizona. Each site repurposes waste from a variety of local sources, and we anticipate more facilities to come online as the project expands.

To learn more about our compost and recycling program, contact sustainability@scotts.com.
Improving Product Formulation

In 2016, the Ortho® brand announced its decision to phase out neonicotinoid active ingredients from its outdoor garden control products. We immediately began exploring alternative active ingredients with a goal to phase out all neonics from these products by 2021, and we are currently on track to meet this objective by the beginning of 2020.

Also this year, Scotts will launch Roundup® For Lawns Crabgrass Destroyer with less active ingredient and higher efficiency than past products. Our Ortho® brand GroundClear® line will debut an OMRI-listed weed and grass killer.

Using Natural and Organic Ingredients

For consumers looking to repel instead of kill rodent pests, we introduced an essential-oil based Tomcat® rodent repellent spray in 2018. This natural approach complements the pest control products the Ortho® brand released in 2017 which included an essential oil-based candle that repels mosquitoes more effectively than traditional citronella.

In 2019, we are launching our most significant product line in this category, Miracle-Gro® Performance Organics™. A full line of OMRI-listed plant foods, potting mixes and garden soils, it offers gardeners the extraordinary results they have always expected from Miracle-Gro, from organic ingredients.

“INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IS ONE WAY THAT SCOTTS SHOWS ITS COMMITMENT TO OUR CONSUMERS AND OUR WORLD. THROUGH INNOVATION IN R&D, WE CAN MAKE OUR PRODUCTS BOTH MORE EFFECTIVE AND MORE SUSTAINABLE.”

- Mark Slavens, VP, Lawns and Environmental Affairs
Protecting and Conserving Water

Our commitment to protect water resources is unparalleled. In the past several years, we have introduced a range of products designed to help consumers create beautiful lawns and landscapes while reducing water waste and preventing runoff.

In 2015, Scotts® introduced the EveryDrop Water Maximizer™ to help consumers facing drought conditions in their communities. This product reduces the amount of water needed to keep lawns and gardens healthy and helps prevent runoff.

In 2016, Scotts® acquired the Blossom smart watering system and began building out a full line of water-efficient products to help consumers reduce water waste. The following year, Scotts® launched the EPA WaterSense-labeled Gro™ 7 Zone irrigation controller. WaterSense labeled products are backed by independent, third-party certification and meet EPA’s specifications for water efficiency and performance. The Gro™ 7 controller uses historical rainfall and forecast data to make watering decisions, enabling consumers to have a beautiful lawn while using up to 50% less water than with traditional, timer-based irrigation systems.

Also in 2016, we introduced the Scotts® Wizz™ hand held spreader, complementing our traditional spreader devices. Like our larger spreaders, it comes equipped with our patented Edgeguard® technology designed to keep fertilizer off sidewalks and driveways and out of waterways, helping keep them clean and healthy.

Innovating through Hydroponics

Dedicated to empowering more people to garden no matter where and how they choose to grow, the Hawthorne Gardening Company expanded its hydroponic product offerings rapidly in the past three years. Hawthorne acquired General Hydroponics in 2016 and added a majority stake in Gavita to its brand family the next year. Data from the agricultural hydroponic industry suggests hydroponic growing can have the following environmental benefits:

- Up to 50% less land space required for growing
- 90% less water required to grow plants
- 60% less fertilizer needed*

Hydroponic growing can also reduce food insecurity by enabling more people in more places, such as urban food deserts, to grow their own food.

*https://ecopostblog.wordpress.com/2014/07/14/the-environmental-benefits-of-hydroponics/

Texas students plant marsh grasses they grew through the Get Hip to Habitat program in the Galveston Bay area.
We continue striving to create a dynamic, family-based culture for all of our associates. To that end, we offer opportunities to support one another, create a safe workplace, give back to the local community and care for the environment.

**CREATING A BETTER WORKPLACE**

92% of associates enrolled in the company medical program completed a medical screening in 2018.

Almost 30 sites and more than 230 associates participated in a Healthy Eating Challenge in March.

Less than 4% of associates enrolled in the Company’s medical plan are tobacco users.
Established in 2005, the LiveTotal Health program helps our associates and their families better their physical, financial and personal health. Our comprehensive approach extends beyond benefits by providing access to resources and experts on subjects like debt, investment education and work-life balance. We also offer adoption assistance and aid in quitting the use of tobacco products. Pairing these expansive services with educational initiatives to promote healthy eating and physical activity gives our associates the chance to make healthy, meaningful and long-lasting changes in their lives.

“IT’S A HOLISTIC AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO WELLNESS,” SAYS MIKE LUKEMIRE, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER.

“LIVETOTAL HEALTH PROVIDES OUR ASSOCIATES AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH THE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT TO THRIVE, WHETHER IT’S THROUGH HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, FINANCIAL PEACE OF MIND OR OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE BACK.”

One of the ways we help our associates achieve financial peace of mind is our retirement program. More than 90% of full-time associates participate in our 401(k) plan, which provides up to a 7.5% salary contribution match.

Kim Kerwin,
Human Resources Technology, Marysville

“A couple of years ago I said to my husband, ‘I know our kids are much older now but I have more love to give. I think we should consider adopting a foster child.’ To my surprise, he had also been thinking about foster adoption. We did a lot of research and felt it was the right thing for our family. It was around that same time that I recalled that we had an adoption benefit available through the company.”

Although Kim was originally unsure about utilizing the adoption benefit that Scotts established in 2006, she was actively encouraged by the management team to learn how the benefit could help her and her family.

“That’s how supportive they are, where you are inspired to maximize all that is available to you. In the end, we were able to welcome a new member to our family, putting all our attention on him without having to spend a lot of time thinking about the cost.”
ASSOCIATE SUPPORT FUND PROGRAM

When our associates need a helping hand, they often find their fellow associates providing it. The ScottsMiracle-Gro Associate Board set up a pooled donation fund in 2007 to help our associates support one another with challenges such as family emergencies, unexpected medical bills and personal and financial hardship. Contributed entirely by our associates, this fund has raised more than $330,000.

$82K raised in 2018
$45K in assistance in 2018

“BECAUSE OF SCOTTS, I WAS ABLE TO PURCHASE PLANE TICKETS AND FLY OUT TO BE WITH [MY SON] TWICE DURING CHEMOTHERAPY. TODAY, MY SON IS TWO YEARS CANCER FREE. THIS HAS BEEN AMAZING TO ME. NO OTHER COMPANY I’VE WORKED FOR WOULD DO THIS.”

– SCOTTSMIRACLE-GRO ASSOCIATE IN OHIO
INCREASING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Over the past three years, our Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) team has worked to improve overall safety across our facilities and manufacturing sites. Our injury and lost day rates remain well below the OSHA industry average. A comprehensive environmental management system, along with continuous improvement goals and ongoing health and safety training and certification for EH&S personnel has made this possible.

![Graph showing injury rate, occupational disease rate, lost day rate, work-related fatalities from 2016 to 2018.]

- Injury Rate
- Occupational Disease Rate
- Lost Day Rate
- Work Related Fatalities
GIVE BACK TO GRO

We encourage our associates to give back to their communities and serve as goodwill ambassadors by volunteering their time with local organizations. Through the Give Back to Gro Associate Community Service Program, we offer 2 paid days off per year for all eligible associates to use in community service. This amounts to more than 92,000 hours allocated per year. Associates use this time to plant community gardens, build houses, mentor schoolchildren and clean up parks, among many other causes.

Following are some of the organizations with which our associates have volunteered through the Give Back to Gro program in the past few years.

SCOTTS ASSOCIATES VOLUNTEER THROUGH OUR GIVE BACK TO GRO™ CAMPAIGN TO HELP BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES THROUGH GARDENS AND GREEN SPACES.
ScottsMiracle-Gro has a long-held commitment to environmental improvement, focusing external engagement in the areas of water and pollinator protection. Explaining this commitment, our CEO Jim Hagedorn stated, “Our consumers are gardeners. And while gardeners garden for infinitely different reasons, they have one thing in common. Every time they garden, they interact with the environment. It is our job to provide them with products, solutions and information that allow them to do so with confidence.”
The Water Positive™ program realizes its goals of water conservation and water protection through a nationwide National Partner Network of 14 environmental nonprofits and research institutions. This network, representing a mix of national and local efforts, is working to protect and preserve some of America’s most threatened water bodies from harmful algal blooms. In addition, network members conduct research and educate the public on improving outdoor water efficiency and reducing water waste.

Nutrient pollution, caused mostly by excess phosphorus and nitrogen, affects water bodies in all 50 U.S. states. Excess nutrients feed algae, causing it to grow rapidly. The resulting harmful algal blooms are not just ugly; they kill aquatic life, poison drinking water and threaten human health through toxins that can affect our nervous system, liver and skin.*

By far the most audacious project our Foundation has sponsored is a $10 million global race to find a solution to these harmful algal blooms, once and for all. Teams of scientists from around the world are participating in the Everglades Foundation George Barley Water Prize competition. The winning team must present a solution to remove and repurpose phosphorus from freshwater that is effective, cost-efficient and scalable for widespread use. In 2018 we saw the completion of Stage 3 of 4, with the final four teams (pictured below) moving on to the Grand Challenge – working on the banks of Lake Jesup in Oviedo, Florida.

*https://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/eh/HABs/algalblooms.aspx
In 2018, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation partnered with the National Recreation and Park Association to launch Parks for Pollinators. This program engages the public on the issues facing pollinators and helps them take action. In addition to conducting national survey work and online engagement, NRPA works with local parks to plan community events and educational programs. The campaign operates through community events, educational programs, social media and online communication.

In 2019, the Ortho® brand is launching an in-store Bee Responsible educational campaign in partnership with the Pollinator Stewardship Council to help gardeners protect bees and pollinators while growing outdoors. Consumers will find practical, easy-to-follow tips for using outdoor garden control products while protecting beneficial insects.

“LOCAL PARK AND RECREATION CENTERS ARE AN IDEAL PLACE TO ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND HELP MORE PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF POLLINATOR HABITATS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND IN THEIR OWN BACKYARDS THROUGH POLLINATOR GARDENS.”

- Jim King, president of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation
Our goal at ScottsMiracle-Gro is to connect more people, in more places, to the life-enhancing benefits of gardens and greenspaces. From edible gardens addressing food insecurity to green schoolyards for children, we support all types of community-driven garden projects, with a particular focus on projects that support young children in need. We offer our aid through monetary grants, in-kind product donations, education and volunteer service.

In 2011, we set a goal to support the creation of 1,000 community gardens and greenspaces in neighborhoods across the country. Today, there is a GRO1000 garden in every U.S. state. Achieving that goal required more than 15,000 volunteer hours and $4,247,000 in monetary grants and in-kind donations, including 210,500 bags or 4,210 pallets of product.

The capstone thousandth GRO1000 project—The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children’s Garden at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens—was planted in May 2018. Since opening this unique, world-class Children’s Garden, the Conservatory has seen significant increases both in overall visitation from children and families and the diversity of neighborhoods from which those families are coming.
A child explores the wetland boardwalk in The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children’s Garden at Franklin Park Conservatory.
HOMETOWN GRANTS

We also support community gardens and public greenspaces in our own backyard through partnerships in Central Ohio. In 2018, our ScottsMiracle-Gro Foundation Community Garden Academy fund at The Columbus Foundation marked its 15th year. The past year also saw the formation of the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Hometown Community Garden and Greenspace Grant Fund with The Union County Foundation.
EMPOWERING YOUTH

Through individualized coaching, innovative learning experiences and educational opportunities, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation, in partnership with The Hagedorn Legacy Foundation, is helping students unlock their inner potential to achieve their educational and vocational goals.
THE LEGACY PROJECT

The Legacy Project provides high school students with resources, innovative experiences and a network of support to move toward post-secondary education and career options—all with a focus on providing equal access to social mobility.

Through one-on-one, individualized coaching and mentor relationships, career exposure opportunities and hands-on camp experiences, The Legacy Project develops the character, skills and innovative mindset necessary for students to successfully navigate the 21st-century world. The program fosters the growth of key character traits while supporting developmental life skills and entrepreneurial thinking that enable students to achieve short-and long-term career objectives. These goals include college, technical/vocational education or entrepreneurial pathways to move into the workforce.

Students are provided with the following:

- Individualized coaching
- Chance to earn tuition toward post-secondary education
- Educational and career goal identification and setting
- Opportunity to learn from entrepreneurs and develop their own entrepreneurial thinking skills
- Community service and career exposure opportunities
- Community mentors with whom to identify and learn from

This is part of the legacy that ScottsMiracle-Gro is building for future generations. Program partners include The Ohio State University, The Mayerson Academy in Cincinnati and the Metro Institute of Technology.