

# NEWS, NOTES & QUOTES



National Newsletter of the Mulch & Soil Council

October 2022

## 51st Annual Meeting Report

### Council News

The 51st MSC Annual Meeting held October 4-6 at the Hilton Uptown Hotel in Charlotte, NC, was another resounding success. Members and non-members from across the country gathered in person to set an all-time record of 205 meeting participants. National Program Chair Joe Ertel (Oldcastle Lawn & Garden) was recognized for producing an excellent educational program drawing widespread support from producers and vendors alike.

Additionally, this year's meeting set new records for participation by new exhibitors and event sponsors eager to support the industry and the Council's producer members after a very challenging year of supply chain issues, transportation shortages and shifting market trends.

#### Tuesday, October 4:

Our meeting activities began Tuesday afternoon with MSC committee meetings. As is our custom, all committee meetings were open to any member who wished to participate as a non-voting observer; so, in addition to committee and board members, there were at least a dozen other members present.

#### Certification Subcommittee on Organics:

The first committee session was a meeting of the Organic Subcommittee of the Certification Committee. The charge to the committee by the Board is to investigate and develop a recommendation for an option of "Certified Organic" mulches and soils under the MSC Product Certification Program. After discussing the scientific vs political meaning of organic and the different interests of numerous organizations, agencies and various stakeholders, the subcommittee voted to conduct a consumer survey to determine potential consumer acceptance of an MSC organic certification program and any acceptable alternate terms for organics. The subcommittee also took action to form a small working group of industry regulatory compliance experts to discuss desired improvements in the organic certification process, ultimately, what the Council would want different for lawn & garden applications, and how to influence regulatory agencies on the meaning and application of the term organic and related terms for the consumer lawn & garden industry as opposed to the organic farming industry.



*MSC Committee Sessions Open the 51st Annual Meeting Activities*

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**Certification Committee:** Staff reported that there are 286 certified products compared to 298 at the same time last year. A total of 17 products had been decertified in the past year and 5 new products had been added making the current total count. The field team of Carol Ledbetter and JC McGowan has completed audit tours in 5 regions traveling over 7,000 miles and collecting more than 450 product samples so far this year. After 16 years in the field, both Carol and JC will be retiring at the end of this year, and Lab Manager Lonny Nelson will continue the audit field work in 2023. The committee also reviewed the program actions that are taken when a product fails an audit and agreed to continue the current practice for mulch and soil product failures. Finally, staff updated the committee on actions being taken to transition program activities to new personnel as staff retirements take place.

**Meet The Board Reception:** After the very successful introduction of the “Meet The Board” reception last year, this special event was continued under the sponsorship of the Hamer /Fischbein Division of nVenia. More than 100 people participated in this pre-meeting event, and we thank everyone who was there.



## **Wednesday, October 5:**

Wednesday morning is our traditional meeting time for the MSC Board of Directors. Again, any member in good standing and interested in participating as a non-voting observer is invited to attend, and a dozen members were present in addition to the Board members. Having just met in late July, the Board agenda was relatively light with initial actions focused on staff, Treasurer and committee reports.

The executive director updated the Board on the latest developments for the revised state and federal legislative and regulatory monitoring program which will be an-



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nounced at the MSC business meeting and explained to members further in December before the start of state legislative sessions in January. There was also an update on the status of the H-2B Temporary Non-agricultural Work Visa program. While the Council does not have the resources to directly assist members wanting to participate in this program, the meeting participants will be surveyed to determine if there is enough interest among members to put together a webinar to help members who want to become involved.

Associate ED Shelli Williams reported on the very successful Plant Managers Training Course on Weights & Measures held in August in Las Vegas. There were 9 major sponsors and 45 participants. Thanks were extended to the sponsors and participants and discussions are developing on the prospects of holding annual training courses on topics other than weights & measures as well.

Program Chair Joe Ertel reviewed the meeting activities for the next few days and Shelli Williams gave special instructions on Board activities and noted that 24 non-members had yellow badges that directors should seek out and convince those companies to join. Following-up on discussions at the last meeting, Shelli Williams reviewed the pros and cons of 5 prospective future meeting sites for the 2024 annual meeting and the Board voted to select San Antonio as the site for 2024 after the 2023 meeting in Savannah.

A video tease of a mulch mural project in Des Moines, Iowa, was presented to the Board. Kent Rotert explained the mural concept using colored mulch in a 5 acre design promoting mulch. The mural video tease will be shown during the annual meeting with more explanation of the project made available over the next few months.

Finally, the Board selected the dates for its next 4 quarterly meetings with the first quarter meeting in January in San Antonio, the second quarter teleconference on April 25, the third quarter meeting in July in Nashville and the final meeting in October at the Savannah annual meeting.

**WELCOME:** Following lunch, MSC Executive Director Robert LaGasse opened the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting with a call to order and introduction of Council President Jim Weber (Ohio Mulch) who gave the official welcome to all participants. Program Chair Joe Ertel (Oldcastle Lawn & Garden) reviewed the program activities for the next 2 days, and MSC Legal Counsel John Hazard of Webster, Chamberlain & Bean reviewed the MSC Anti-trust Policy for the meeting.

**The Crow Report:** Joe Ertel introduced MSC Legislative Representative David Crow of D C Legislative & Regulatory Services in Washington, DC, who presented the industry favorite CROW POLITICAL REPORT. An audio recording of David's presentation is available on the MSC website. One of the key issues in the midterm elections is the confusion created by the media attention on the 2024 elections and the Biden vs Trump factors that are impacting the current midterms.



*Wednesday's Board of Directors Meeting*



*(Above) MSC President Jim Weber Welcomes a Record 205 Participants to the Meeting.*

*(Below) Program Chair Joe Ertel Welcomes Everyone to Charlotte and Reviews the Program.*



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Under normal election history, the midterms can be highly unfavorable to the party in power, and the economic, boarder, inflation and crime issues would be expected to deliver a punishing blow against Democrats this election. However, nothing can be assumed including any potential “red wave” or whether either party will hold an upper hand after November 8<sup>th</sup> this year.

## **Business Meeting Reports & Recognitions:**

The 51<sup>st</sup> MSC Membership Meeting was well attended. President Weber noted Council successes and gave a special presentation on how members can solve their pallet availability problem by making their own pallets. The Treasurer’s Report showed the Council was financially stable while many trade groups are not, and Executive Director Robert LaGasse reviewed Council program progress including membership growth, meeting growth, and program expansion due to the tremendous support of Council members and manufacturers. After recognizing the current outgoing directors for their last term of service, the Nominating Committee nominated the incumbent directors for another 3-year term of office and they were unanimously re-elected by the membership. The re-elected directors include:



*David Crow Presents the Annual CROW REPORT*



*Joe Ertel  
Oldcastle Lawn & Garden*



*Dr. Kay Yeon Jeong  
Sun Gro Horticulture*



*Rick Mahoney  
Garick, LLC*



*Kimberly Rygielski  
The Scotts Company*

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Special recognitions were given to Don Dugger of The Scotts Company and “The Mulch Maids” of the Mulch & soil Council.

## **MSC Certificate of Appreciation:**

In recognition of his biennial participation as an instructor for the MSC Plant Managers Training Course on Weights & Measures for over 20 years (1999 – 2022), the Council is pleased to honor Don Dugger of The Scotts Company for his unwavering dedication and contribution to the improvement of the Council and the industry. The award comes just days after Don’s official retirement from Scotts in his position as Northeast Region Director.



*Don Dugger Receives Recognition for Many Years of Volunteer Service to the Council*

## **John Leber Distinguished Service Award:**

They call themselves *The Mulch Maids* and for the past 16 years, Carol Ledbetter and JC McGowan LaGasse have traveled the 4 corners of the U.S. collecting audit samples of MSC certified mulch and soil products for testing. Each year they have traveled over 7,000 miles and collected more than 400 product samples in spite of rain, snow, wind and heat. At one point, the team even followed a hurricane where road signs had blown away and access to garden centers was blocked.



*The Retiring MSC Certification Audit Team—The Mulch Maids—Receive the John Leber Distinguished Service Award. Pictured (L-R) are MSC Executive Director Robert LaGasse, JC McGowan LaGasse, Carol Ledbetter and MSC President Jim Weber.*

Their purpose over the years has been to protect the members participating in the MSC product certification program by periodically checking that everyone is following the rules. So, they traveled the country in rented vans full of aromatic wet mulch and manure as they moved from retailer to retailer and manufacturer to manufacturer stopping periodically to unload and ship samples to laboratory facilities for testing.



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After almost 2 decades of service, *The Mulch Maids* will both retire at the end of 2022 ending the grueling schedule of traveling each of our 5 regions covering 1,500 miles in 4-5 days. The MSC Board thanks the many members who have helped the audit team along their travels these many years and officially thanks and recognizes the industry contributions made by *The Mulch Maids* (Carol Ledbetter and JC McGowan LaGasse) with the John Leber Distinguished Service Award.

**Affiliate Member Reception & Exhibits:**

The Wednesday opening reception had 28 Associate and Affiliate Member exhibits eager to discuss the latest industry products, technologies and services with the premier mulch & soil producers in the nation. Old and new customers were available to exchange information, ideas and needs to those who provide answers and equipment to our industry. Food and drinks were generously sponsored by Vermeer Corp.

## Thank You To Our Exhibitors



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Not shown in photos are: Agricoatings, Chromascape, Loadscan, nVenia, OEC Graphics, Social Marks Media, and Walz Scales.

## Thursday, October 6:

Thursday's program began with a presentation on *Women in Our Industry*. Joe Ertel moderated an outstanding panel of experts including Katie Blaylock (New Earth Compost), Briana Gray (The Scotts Company) and Tonya Berg Kitzmiller (Grant County Mulch). The panel discussed that a major untapped workforce for our industry is women who don't realize and are seldom told of the many job opportunities that exist for women in the mulch & soil industry. These are not just clerical positions but line managers, shift supervisors, heavy equipment operators and more. They discussed some of the challenges women face in a male dominated work force and how we can benefit from changing our current work paradigm to greatly expand our workforce resources. An audio recording of this important panel presentation is available in the link at the end of this article on page 12.

Next, Dr. Cabot Jaffee of AlignMark on *How to Recruit and Retain The Next Generation*. This presentation continued our discussion on workforce issues by explaining how the new generation of workers and employment technologies look differently at advertis-



Joe Ertel moderates a panel session with (L-R) Katie Blaylock, Tonya Berg Kitzmiller and Briana Gray on *Women in Our Industry*.



Dr. Cabot Jaffee

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ing, recruiting and qualifying new employees and how some “traditional” practices are now viewed as barriers to attracting the new generation worker. Dr. Jaffee explained the pitfalls and opportunities of using new techniques that are available to employer and employees. A PDF and audio recording of Dr. Jaffee’s presentation is available in the link at the end of this article on page 12.

For our luncheon keynote, Dr. Brian Jackson of NC State Univ., gave an amazing presentation on the *Current Challenges and Opportunities in the Growing Media Industry*. Brian reviewed the status of peat moss supplies around the world and the supply chain issues driving innovation around soilless growing media. Just one of the latest innovations is the great technical advancements being made with wood fiber materials use in growing media. Hear what you should know about this very important topic from the PDF and audio recording of Brian’s presentation that is available in the link at the end of this report on page 12.

After our keynote, Kevin Mershimmer of the Horton Group spoke on the topic of *Taking Charge of Your Business Insurance Program & Costs*. Kevin informed members on why insurance rates are going up, the driving forces for companies to write coverages and what companies can do to optimize their discounts and credits that lower their costs. To learn more about saving insurance costs, a PDF and audio recording of Mark’s presentation is available in the link at the end of this article on page 12.

Our last session was presented by Rick Saar of AKE Safety Equipment on *Fire Safety: Solving Today’s Double Threat*. Rick explained that a fire loss is always a major disruption for businesses, but in today’s era of supply chain problems and excessive delays in replacing part and/or equipment, the added lost production time is an additional penalty no one can afford. Early fire detection and rapid response is essential in minimizing the fire threat in your company. To learn more about fire solutions, a PDF and audio recording of Rick’s presentation is available in the link at the end of this article on page 12.

**President’s Reception:** Our closing event was the President’s Reception generously sponsored by Social Marks Media. Participants gathered for a final opportunity to network with vendors and other producers and recap the events of the meeting before returning home with renewed commitment for their business.



Dr. Brian Jackson



Kevin Mershimmer



Rick Saar



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**Sponsor Thank You:** We cannot thank our sponsors enough because their generous support makes it possible for the Council to continually expand and improve our meeting event at no additional cost to the meeting participants. We are proud to report the following sponsor support for our members:

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**Recordings Available:** To download slide presentations and audio recordings of the 51<sup>st</sup> MSC Annual Meeting program sessions, [CLICK HERE](#)



**Women in Our Industry:** (L-R) Briana Gray (The Scotts Co.), Katie Blaylock (New Earth Compost), Janie Berg (Grant County Mulch), Tonya Berg Kitzmiller (Grant County Mulch), Ash Sharma (Reliance Packaging), Jayme Matkozych (J.A. Rutter), Katy Shea (T.H. Glennon), Dr. Kay Yeon Jeong (Sun Gro Horticulture), Nursel Wallace (Selene North America), Addie Wiggins (Nature’s Choice), Di Kuo (Garick LLC), Kimberly Rygielski (The Scotts Co.), Janet Bloodgood (Faltech Industries), Hanna Previte (Komptech Americas), France Carrier (P.R. Russell).

# LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY NEWS

## EPA UPDATES AQUATIC PESTICIDES BENCHMARKS



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the U.S. Geological Survey, has released an updated version of the Aquatic Life Benchmarks. These benchmarks are estimates of the concentrations below which pesticides (including conventional pesticides and antimicrobial chemicals) are not expected to present a risk of concern for freshwater organisms.

The updated Aquatic Life Benchmarks represent 759 chemicals (parent compounds or degradates) including newly registered pesticides or new values for previously registered pesticides and selected degradates. The updates include:

- Benchmarks for 27 new chemicals (i.e., 16 new active ingredients and 11 of their degradates).
- Additional benchmarks for 10 degradates of chemicals with existing benchmarks.
- Revised benchmarks for 72 existing chemicals (i.e., 57 registration review chemicals and 15 degradates).

EPA based these benchmarks on toxicity values from scientific studies that the Agency has reviewed and used in publicly accessible ecological risk assessments in support of regulatory decisions for pesticides. For each of the chemicals listed in the Aquatic Life Benchmarks table, the table provides a link to the source documents for the benchmarks.

State, tribal and local governments use these benchmarks in their interpretation of water quality monitoring data. Comparing a measured concentration of a pesticide in water to its Aquatic Life Benchmarks can be helpful in interpreting monitoring data and in identifying and prioritizing monitoring sites that may require further investigation. International regulatory authorities and researchers also use these data in their work.

This update supersedes the previous version published Aug. 31, 2021. EPA intends to continue updating these benchmarks yearly. Read the summary of updated benchmarks or see the complete Aquatic Life Benchmarks table.

## EPA WITHDRAWS GLYPHOSATE INTERIM DECISION



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing its withdrawal of all remaining portions of the interim registration review decision for glyphosate. Pesticide products containing glyphosate continue to remain on the market and be used according to the product label and are unaffected by this action.

Glyphosate is undergoing registration review, a periodic reevaluation of pesticide registrations to ensure that existing pesticide products continue to perform their intended function without unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), each pesticide must be reviewed every 15 years.

On Feb. 3, 2020, EPA published the Glyphosate Interim Registration Review Decision (ID). The ID did not identify any human health risks of concern from exposure to glyphosate but did identify potential ecological risks. The ID included interim risk mitigation measures in the form of label changes, including labeling to manage spray drift and herbicide resistance. It concluded that the benefits of glyphosate outweigh the potential ecological risks when glyphosate is used in accordance with the labels.

On March 20, 2020, the glyphosate ID was challenged in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Petitioners challenged EPA's analysis of human health and ecological risk, the weighing of such risks against the benefits of glyphosate and the interim risk mitigation measures and alleged that EPA violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA). On May 18, 2021, EPA sought partial voluntary remand without vacatur

of the ecological portion of the ID so the Agency could revisit aspects of its analysis in light of EPA’s November 2020 draft biological evaluation for glyphosate and recent court decisions for other herbicides, among other reasons.

On June 17, 2022, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit vacated the human health portion of the glyphosate ID and held that EPA’s registration review decision under FIFRA was an ‘action’ that triggered ESA obligations. The court also granted EPA’s request for voluntary remand, without vacatur, of the ecological portion of the ID but imposed an Oct. 1, 2022, deadline for EPA to issue a new ecological portion. EPA sought relief from this deadline, which the court denied on Aug. 5, 2022.

EPA has determined that withdrawal of the glyphosate ID is appropriate in consideration of the Ninth Circuit’s June 17, 2022, decision. The Agency is unable to finalize a new ecological portion in a registration review decision for glyphosate by the court-imposed Oct. 1, 2022, deadline because of the time needed to address the issues for which EPA sought remand of the ecological portion and satisfy ESA requirements. EPA initiated formal ESA consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (the Services) for glyphosate in November 2021, and consultation is ongoing. Moreover, before issuing any decision, EPA must first prepare a proposed decision, publish for a 60-day public comment period, and consider any comments received. EPA cannot complete these processes by the court-imposed deadline.

EPA’s underlying scientific findings regarding glyphosate, including its finding that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans, remain the same. In accordance with the court’s decision, the Agency intends to revisit and better explain its evaluation of the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate and to consider whether to do so for other aspects of its human health analysis. For the ecological portion, EPA intends to address the issues for which it sought remand, including: to consider whether additional or different risk mitigation may be necessary based on the outcome of ESA consultation for glyphosate, prepare an analysis of in-field effects of glyphosate on monarch butterfly habitat, consider whether there are other aspects of its analysis of ecological risks and costs to revisit, and consider what risk mitigation measures may be necessary to reduce potential risk following completion of analyses left outstanding in the ID. EPA also intends to complete ESA consultation with the Services, make a determination under the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program, and respond to an administrative petition regarding glyphosate before issuing a final registration review decision.

**FMCSA PROPOSES  
MANDATORY CMV  
Electronic ID  
System**



**F M C S A**  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

**F**MCMSA is considering a rulemaking to require all CMVs operating in interstate commerce to have an electronic id system. FMCSA is therefore soliciting further information regarding various aspects of electronic identification including the best possible technical and operational concepts along with associated costs, benefits, security, vulnerability, privacy and other relevant deployment and operational implications. The questions are organized by topic. As noted in the instructions for submitting comments in Section I.A., above, FMCSA requests that commenters provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

1. General

a. Should a device capable of transmitting an electronic id be permanently affixed or removable/transferrable to CMVs currently in operation? Would FMCSA’s rule need to specify?

b. What data should be included as part of the electronic id (e.g., carrier name, carrier contact information, vehicle id number, license plate number, USDOT number, and gross vehicle weight rating)?

- Should the information be limited to non-PII information? If not, why not?
- Should it include information specific to the driver (e.g., hours of service, Com-



- mercial Driver’s License compliance, and medical certification)?
- Should it also include information that may vary from trip to trip ( e.g., axle weight, pre-trip inspection date and time, and GPS coordinates and time when requested)?
  - Depending on how you answer the above questions, should the electronic id be transferrable in the event of a CMV sale?
  - Depending on how you answer the above questions, who should be responsible for providing the data set (see question 1.b.) associated with the electronic id for a CMV ( i.e., driver, carrier, third party)?
    - c. Depending on the scope of the data you believe is necessary in 1.b., how should the data be transmitted and received?
    - Can existing technology ( e.g., ELDs) be used to collect and transmit the electronic id data and receive a response from enforcement officials?
    - How far in advance (time, distance) does a state need to gather the electronic id information to positively id a vehicle and message the vehicle whether further inspection is required?
    - Should FMCSA propose a standard for the method of data transmission, and, if so, what should it be, or do you believe a voluntary standard can be developed?
      - d. Are there reports or studies not already referenced above available regarding the use of electronic devices to identify CMVs that FMCSA may find useful in finding a technically sound, cost-effective, long-term means to identify CMVs at roadside? If so, please provide the references in your responses.
      - e. Should the electronic id be limited only to CMV power units ( e.g., motorcoaches, truck-tractors) or also include trailers?
      - f. How would an electronic id apply to rented or leased vehicles that are operated by different carriers or parties throughout the course of the year?
      - g. How would or should an electronic id be tied to States’ CMV record keeping ( e.g., Inter-national Registration Plan registration, Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM))?
      - h. Are there privacy, health, or coercion concerns FMCSA should consider in a future pro-posal?

## 2. Functionality

- a. Should the electronic id framework be flexible so that functionality could be added later, as new safety and other vehicle technologies emerge?
- b. What operational and/or technical processes should be in place for handling situations where messages or data concerning the electronic id do not send or receive correctly?
- c. How quickly can malfunctions in any electronic id system be located and corrected?
- d. What cyber security issues ( e.g., “spoofing,” and interference) should FMCSA consider in a future electronic id proposal? Compare and contrast such concerns with the current electronic id systems.
- e. How could tampering be prevented if some or all data entry or transfer is performed manually?

## 3. Populations Affected

- a. What is the population of trucks that already have a type of electronic id technology ( e.g., PrePass, Drivewyze)?
- b. What is the percentage of carriers that are not identified through current electronic screening capabilities? Please provide any supporting studies or reports.

## 4. Cost/Benefits

- a. What are the current and potential future safety benefits of electronic ids?

## FMCSA (Cont'd)



- Are there studies or reports that provide data to support the benefits of electronic ids?
- Would implementing an electronic id requirement lower crash rates, if so, how?
  - b. How would requiring an electronic id impact the overall effectiveness of State CMV in-spection programs?
  - c. How much time would compliant motor carriers save if an electronic id were to be re-quired?
  - d. What is the cost of adding electronic id technology by type ( e.g., transponder, wireless, software, etc.)?
  - e. What is the cost of electronic id equipment for States, carriers, and drivers?
  - f. What is the cost of maintaining/ operating electronic id equipment ( e.g., internet connec-tion, inspection, repair, third party contracting fees, etc.)?
  - g. What is the additional administrative burden (time and costs not already asso-ciated with vehicle or carrier registration) for registering the electronic id and updat-ing the registration as necessary to ensure that it is associated with the current motor carrier responsible for safety?
- 5. Other
  - a. Is there any other information associated with electronic ids that FMCSA should consider? Please describe

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF ORGANIC HYDROPONIC PRODUCERS



The Coalition for Sustainable Organics (CSO) has reported that a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco affirmed the legality of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to have the authority to recognize and certify growers using hydroponic organic production methods in a ruling issued last month.

Lee Frankel, the executive director of the CSO, stated, “The court stood up for our efforts to make organics more accessible to consumers and not limit them to only the wealthy. Inflation is hitting consumers hard, and innovative and highly productive organic production systems should not be excluded from the market just because a group of growers wants higher profits for themselves.

The decision by the court preserves historically important supplies of berries, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, mushrooms, leafy greens, herbs, sprouts and microgreens that are frequently grown using containers or other hydroponic organic systems. In addition, the lawsuit threatened the nursery industry that provides many of the seedlings used by organic growers planting both in open fields as well as greenhouses.”

Frankel was pleased that the court ruling clearly affirmed the legitimacy of hydroponic and container production systems under the Organic Foods Production Act that established the USDA National Organic Program. In addition, the ruling also confirmed that USDA was fully within its rights to reject the petition to ban the certification of operations and correctly followed procedures in its handling of the petition.

“We look forward to the organic industry coming together in the wake of this court decision to help strengthen the organic community, continue to enhance the cycling and recycling natural resources and promote ecological balance,” continued Frankel. “We are eternally grateful to the teams at USDA and the Department of Justice in effectively defending the work of the National Organic Program.”

### 2022 CSPMA Peat Moss Harvest REPORT

OTTAWA, Ontario, Canada, September 23, 2022 – The Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA), whose members currently represent approximately 83 percent of North America’s horticultural peat production, is providing its annual level of harvest for the 2022 season.

A survey of members was conducted on the status of their 2022 Actual Harvest as a percentage of their 2022 Expected Harvest as of August 31 (the season may continue in





some regions, weather dependant). The harvest overall varied regionally, but significantly poor weather conditions across all regions meant that harvest, unfortunately, was well below expected levels.

### Regional Results:

In Western Canada (Manitoba [MB], Saskatchewan [SK] and Alberta [AB]), all regions were below the targeted volumes (56% in MB; 75% in SK; 81% in AB). In some cases, record-breaking rain and floods significantly delayed the harvest season, a situation that extended through much of the summer. The end of summer saw more favorable conditions, but they were insufficient to enable target volumes to be reached. In Manitoba, weather conditions, specifically the spring 2022 flooding, limited harvest and plant operations, constraining capacity. To date, some facilities are continuing to recover from the flood damage.

In New Brunswick, both North and South regions were below expected harvest volumes (65% in NB North, 70% in NB South). Varied weather patterns combined with the late start constrained harvest throughout the Maritimes. The harvest on Québec's South Shore (73%) and North Shore (61%) were also below expectations. Several summer storms, particularly on the North Shore, did not permit either region to achieve its targeted volumes. Similar weather patterns affected the Ontario (57%) harvest.

South of the border, Minnesota (34%) experienced a lower-than-expected harvest because of unique weather patterns.

As in the past, Canadian horticultural peat producers are committed to working cooperatively with their commercial business partners. CSPMA members continue to harvest and manage horticultural peat in a sustainable and responsible way that delivers social and economic benefits to many communities across North America, all while applying world-leading environmental practices. In addition, Canadian horticultural peat producers are engaged in increasing harvesting capacity through investments in plant infrastructure, harvesting equipment, bog openings, and personnel training, while partnering with Academia to mitigate the environmental footprint. Producers, through the CSPMA, are also working with provincial governments to improve the regulatory environment to ensure the critical resource continues to deliver on the benefits of food security and well-being for generations to come.

### Definitions:

**2022 Actual Harvest:** The volume of cubic feet (CFT) of harvest that was achieved as of August 31, plus, what can reasonably be expected to be harvested for the last few weeks of the season considering « normal » harvesting conditions.

**2022 Expected Harvest:** The volume of CFT that equates to a) market needs, plus, b) anticipated buffer as at the end of the 2022 season, minus, c) inventory on hand at the start of the 2022 season (what was left of the 2021 buffer).

### About the CSPMA

The CSPMA is the Canadian association of horticultural peat producers. The association and its members are devoted to promoting sustainable and responsible management of Canadian peatlands and wise use of the resource. CSPMA provides support to and advocacy for its members and leadership in environmental and social stewardship, as well as economic well-being and food security related to Canadian peatland resource use.

For more information  
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President, CSPMA  
asha@peatmoss.com  
613-668-3037

## Enviva CELEBRATES OPENING OF MS PELLET PLANT



On Sept. 30th, Enviva Inc held a ceremonial ribbon cutting at its recently constructed wood pellet manufacturing facility in George County, Mississippi. The Enviva Lucedale plant, located in George County, is the company's second operating plant in the state, and the first plant in its newly formed Pascagoula cluster. The Lucedale plant began its ramp in production at the beginning of 2022 with a goal of reaching an annual permitted production capacity of 750,000 metric tons per year (MTPY). Looking back, construction on Enviva's Lucedale plant supported approximately 400 cumulative jobs and represented an investment of more than \$215 million in George County by Enviva.

Now fully operational, Enviva has hired approximately 90 full-time employees for the Lucedale plant and supports nearly 300 jobs across the George County community. With more than half of the associates at the Lucedale plant residing in George County, Enviva's practice of hiring locally ensures that George County directly benefits from the jobs created at the Lucedale plant. Over time, Enviva expects to generate an annual economic impact of \$250 million in the region.

Located in a robust fiber supply basket, the Lucedale plant sources low-value wood from areas within 75 miles of the facility, creating durable markets for local land-owners and incentives to keep land as forests. As the world's largest producer of wood pellets, the company embraces its stewardship role in the forest products industry by encouraging the use of sound and scientifically proven forestry practices to improve forest health and productivity in the region.

Enviva is progressing along its path to more than double production capacity over the next five years, from 6.2 million MTPY to approximately 13 million MTPY. Today's announcement follows the news of Enviva's recently opened terminal at the Port of Pascagoula and its forthcoming wood pellet manufacturing plant in Bond, MS. Between Enviva's current Amory and Lucedale, MS plants, and its terminal at the Port of Pascagoula, MS, Enviva continues to renew its commitment to bringing new jobs and economic development to the Magnolia State.

## MEMBER NEWS

### New Member Welcome

The Mulch & Soil Council is pleased to welcome its latest new Producer Member:



#### **Parker Bark Company, Inc.**

Aaron & Susannah Reynolds  
PO Box 158  
3295 US Hwy 117  
Rose Hill, NC 28458  
aaron@parkerbark.com  
www.parkerbark.com

### Certified Product News

#### **Recertified Products**

Amerigrow Recycling  
Amerigrow Recycling  
Amerigrow Recycling  
Amerigrow Recycling  
Austin Wood Recycling  
Austin Wood Recycling  
Margo State Line, Inc.  
Margo State Line, Inc.  
Margo State Line, Inc.

#### **Mulch**

Hardwood Cypress Mulch Blend  
Premium Brown Mulch  
Premium Gold Mulch  
Premium Red Mulch  
Texas Native Hardwood Mulch  
Texas Native Red Shredded Cedar Mulch  
Vigoro Premium Black Mulch by Margo State Line  
Vigoro Premium Brown Mulch by Margo State Line  
Vigoro Premium Red Mulch by Margo State Line

# Certified Product News



## Recertified Products

Permagreen Organics Co.  
 Permagreen Organics Co.  
 Permagreen Organics Co.  
 Superior Cedar Products  
 Swiss Farms Products  
 Swiss Farms Products  
 Swiss Farms Products  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company

Black Gold Compost Company  
 Black Gold Compost Company  
 KSI (Kellogg)  
 Miracle-Gro Lawn Products  
 Miracle-Gro Lawn Products  
 Miracle-Gro Lawn Products  
 Swiss Farms Products  
 Swiss Farms Products  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company

Swiss Farms Products  
 Swiss Farms Products  
 Swiss Farms Products  
 The Scotts Company  
 The Scotts Company

Terrace Brands  
 Terrace Brands

## Mulch

Vigoro Premium Black Mulch by Permagreen Organics  
 Vigoro Premium Brown Mulch by Permagreen Organics  
 Vigoro Premium Red Mulch by Permagreen Organics  
 Cedar Chips  
 Vigoro Premium Wood Mulch Black by Swiss Farms Products  
 Vigoro Premium Wood Mulch Brown by Swiss Farms Products  
 Vigoro Premium Wood Mulch Red by Swiss Farms Products  
 Earthgro by Scotts Black Mulch  
 Earthgro by Scotts Brown Mulch  
 Earthgro by Scotts Red Mulch  
 Scotts Nature Scapes Finest Classic Black Mulch  
 Scotts Nature Scapes Finest Deep Forest Brown Mulch  
 Scotts Nature Scapes Finest Sierra Red Mulch  
 Scotts Nature Scapes Triple Shred Black Mulch  
 Scotts Nature Scapes Triple Shred Brown Mulch  
 Scotts Nature Scapes Triple Shred Red Mulch

## Landscape Soils

Black Kow Cow Manure  
 Organic Brands Mushroom Compost  
 Gardeners Chicken Manure  
 Miracle-Gro Moisture Control Garden Soil 0.09-0.05-0.07  
 Miracle-Gro Tree & Shrub Soil 0.09-0.05-0.07  
 Nature's Care Organic Garden Soil w/Water Conserve 0.125-0.08-0.125  
 Green Thumb Enriched Garden Soil 0.06-0.04-0.05  
 Vigoro All-Purpose Garden Soil 0.05-0.05-0.03  
 Osmocote Planting Soil 0.15-0.05-0.10  
 Scotts Turf Builder Lawn Soil 0.08-0.03-0.02

## Premium Soils

Green Thumb Moisture Manager Potting Mix 0.07-0.05-0.06  
 Green Thumb Premium Enriched Potting Mix 0.07-0.05-0.06  
 Vigoro All-Purpose Potting Mix 0.07-0.04-0.03  
 Osmocote Potting Soil 0.07-0.01-0.03  
 Scotts Moisture Advantage Premium Potting Soil 0.07-0.05-0.06

## Standard Growing Media

Northern Naturals Gardening Organic Garden Soil 0.04-0.03-0.03  
 Northern Naturals Gardening Organic Potting Mix 0.06-0.04-0.05

# Mark Your Calendar

