

NEWS, NOTES & QUOTES



National Newsletter of the Mulch & Soil Council

February 2024

COUNCIL NEWS

MSC COMMITTEE REPORTS

CERTIFIED PRODUCT	
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	Standard Potting Soil
	Landscape Soil & Soil Amendment
	Specialty Soils
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mulch

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Certification Committee: The MSC Certification Committee met in Tampa, FL, on January 24. After reviewing and approving the year-end program reports, the committee focused on progress made in the development of an MSC Certified All-Natural product program for mulch and soil products. The committee reviewed and modified a list of all natural product ingredients and terms that would serve as the basis for certification approvals in the program. The committee then reviewed the draft program applications developed for all-natural mulch and all-natural soil certification. Multiple changes and recommendations for further development were discussed and sent back to staff for revision and resubmission to the committee.

Bulk Measure Committee: The new Bulk Measure Committee met for the first time on January 24 in Tampa. Committee Chair Ben Ballard moderated a lively discussion of past and current industry practices described by the committee members present. A key issue was the accuracy of bulk density measures converted to volumetric loads. The practical issue is that multiple bulk density readings in each load can create conversion errors as great as 15-20 cu yd or more; so, it was a general consensus that bulk density conversions do not work. Training loader operators to be consistent in loading was a more practical approach. Finally, load scanning technology was discussed, but no technology has been approved by W&M officials for us in mulch or soil in commerce. The most practical approach is trained operators delivering consistent bucket loads that are verified by a scanning device.

A second issue identified by the committee is the problem of customers claiming volume shortages based on visual inspection without accounting for settling or using uncalibrated equipment to verify loads or (worse yet) assuming the number of pots filled or wheelbarrow loads is an accurate measure of material delivered. The committee also discussed issues regarding differences between business-to-business and business-to-consumer transactions and FOB plant or FOB destination rules. Ultimately, the committee determined that, in the absence of a methodology that addresses all questions, education for industry and customers could resolve many issues and an industry-approved series of Best Management Practices and Guidelines would be the most useful “next step” for the committee....stay tuned.

Legislative & Regulatory Committee: The L&R Committee met in Tampa to review the MSC legislative monitoring program and propose any keyword or other improvements. After reviewing the program details, the committee suggested expanding the keyword searches to include the words bark, HOS, “hours of service”, “farm supplies”, “Jumping Worms”, wood and logging.

###



MSC BOARD MEETING REPORT



The MSC Board of Directors met on January 25 in Tampa, FL. The first item of business was approval of the requests of Grant County Mulch and The Scotts Company to change their official membership and Board representative. In accordance with the MSC Bylaws, a member company elected to the Board must designate an official representative. As needed, the member company may designate a new representative, subject to the approval of the MSC Board.

Grant County Mulch requested that their official representative be changed from Janie Berg to Tom Kohut. The Scotts Company requested that their official representative be changed from Kimberly Rygielski to Nicholas Castorano. The Board approved both requests and welcomed the new representatives to the meeting. The next item was the election of officers. By unanimous vote, President Jim Weber (Ohio Mulch), VP Byron Morgan (Mountain West Mulch) and Joe Ertel (Oldcastle Lawn & Garden) were reelected for another one-year term.

The board members went on to approve the executive director's report, approve the year-end financial statement and adopt a new budget for FY 2024.

The Board then reviewed various committee reports. In addition to those reported above, the Industry Statistics Committee reported completion of the consumer soil survey and the Year-Over-Year sales survey in 2023. The next project will be a safety survey requesting all members to send a confidential copy of their OSHA Form 300 for industry compilation. Finally, the Board disbanded the Bylaws Committee with thanks for the work it did in revising the Council Bylaws in 2023 after 18 years.

The next topic of discussion was the 2024 Plant Managers Training Course. This year's course will be held in Las Vegas in August and will be a 2-day event focused on W&M training, package labeling, package fill testing & QC, BMPs for mulch and soil fire presentation and control, equipment maintenance, and production cost controls. General meeting parameters were set by the Board and an announcement of the final program agenda will be announced soon.

For the annual meeting. The Board appointed Jessica Bain of Garick as the Annual Meeting Program Chair for 2024. Sponsor and exhibitor opportunities were set and will be opened to the membership in March.

While visiting Tampa for the January Board meeting, it was determined that insufficient facilities and other opportunities existed to support an annual meeting at the level members have enjoyed in the past; so, the tentative decision to choose Tampa for the 2025 MSC Annual Meeting was rescinded. Daytona and Nashville were suggested as options and staff will investigate a new site opportunity for 2025.

###

SAFETY SURVEY



Knowing how your operations compare to others in the same industry can be very useful when negotiating insurance rates, hiring new personnel, evaluating performance, determining bonuses, reviewing operating procedures, and more. As reported above, the Industry Statistics Committee is investigating personnel safety in the industry and requests member company help in submitting already existing public OSHA 300 reports that can be aggregated by the Council office and reported by category across the membership. As noted in the article later in this newsletter, the OSHA 300 report is required to be submitted to OSHA and posted in employee information areas by March 2 of this year.

MSC requests that all members send a copy of their OSHA 300 report to the Council where staff will aggregate all the reported data across the entire industry work hours to identify the frequency of reported accidents and injuries by category. No individual company data will be reported — only aggregated report results for the whole industry.

OSHA 300 reports are due to the government by March 2; so, look for an MSC request to send a copy to membership@mulchandsoilcouncil.org after that date.

###

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MEET THE BOARD



Following last October's elections, recent changes in company representatives and reelection of the Council officers for another year, we are pleased to announce the following MSC Board of Directors for 2024:

MSC OFFICERS:



President
Jim Weber
Ohio Mulch
Columbus, OH



Vice President
Byron Morgan
Mountain West Mulch
Rexburg, ID



Secretary/Treasurer
Joe Ertel
Oldcastle Lawn & Garden
Suaget, IL

DIRECTORS:



Nicholas Castorano
The Scotts Co.
Marysville, OH



Larry Doose
Sylva Corp.
Princeton, MN



Kay Yeon Jeong
Sun Gro Horticulture
Agawam, MA



Tom Kohut
Grant County Mulch
Petersburg, WV



Steve Liffers
Denali
Longview, WA



Rick Mahoney
Garick, LLC
Cleveland, OH

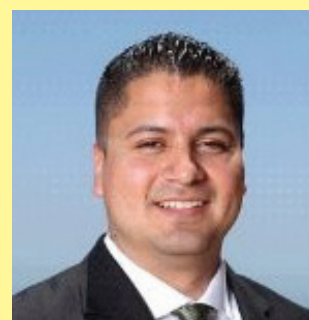
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Colorbiotics
Ames, IA



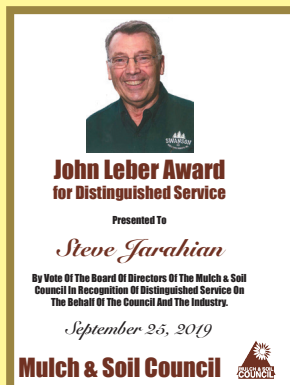
Randy Tyre
Waupaca Northwoods
Waupaca, WI



Ricky Urteaga
Kellogg Garden Products
Carson, CA

###

CALL FOR HONORS NOMINATIONS



Volunteers are the essential engine that powers many programs and activities of the Mulch & Soil Council. The Mulch & Soil Council is grateful for all the tremendous contributions made by volunteers every year, and we thank everyone who has taken time to share their expertise for the benefit of all members and the industry at large.

Such was the case of John Leber who was the president of Swanson Bark and Wood Products and served the Council with distinction for many years as a director and as the Secretary/Treasurer until his untimely death in an industrial accident in 2015. As a memoriam to John, the Board of Directors created a special, John Leber Distinguished Service Award to recognize an individual or organization that has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to advancing the objectives of the Mulch & Soil Council and/or the mulch and soil industry.

Call For Nominations

Eligibility: Nominations are open to individuals or organizations who are members of the Council at the time of nomination.

Qualifying Activities: The award is intended for any person or organization providing exceptional service to the Mulch & Soil Council in any of the following examples or similar activities:

Leadership: as a director, committee member or other program participant of the Council.

Advocacy: as a spokesman for the Council and/or the mulch and soil industry to the public or government.

Training & Education: as a mentor sharing his or her expertise with other industry members for the improvement of the industry.

When: Distinguished service may be recognized for a single event/ activity or for multiple years of service.

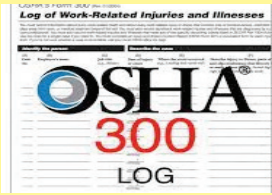
Where: The nominee shall reside within North America.

Nominations Deadline: Nominations should be submitted to membership@mulchandsoilcouncil.org by June 15, 2024. Please include a statement on why the person or organization is being nominated.

###

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY NEWS

OSHA Form 300A Due March 2



Employers that had 11 or more employees at any point in 2023 are required to post Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Form 300A, Summary of Work-Related Injury and Illnesses, from February 1 through April 30 unless they qualify as an exempt low-risk industry. Employers are required to post Form 300A even if they didn't have any recordable incidents in 2023. OSHA Form 300A must be certified by a company executive and posted in a conspicuous location where notices to employees are customarily posted.

Employee count is based on the number of employees in the entire company, not per establishment. Covered establishments that had 250 or more employees in the prior calendar year, or 20–249 employees if they're in certain high-risk industries, must submit their 2023 Form 300A data electronically, using OSHA's online [Injury Tracking Application](#) (ITA). The deadline to submit the report is March 2, 2024. These requirements are based on the size of the establishment (how many employees there are at the physical location), not how many employees are in the entire company.

Employers that are covered by a State Plan that has not yet adopted its own state rule must also use the ITA to send data electronically. Employers that meet any of the following criteria **DO NOT** have to send Form 300A information to OSHA:

- Employers that are exempt from OSHA's routine recordkeeping requirements, as mentioned above.
- Employers that never had 20 or more employees during the previous calendar year, regardless of industry.
- Employers that had between 20 and 249 employees at some point during the previous calendar year but are NOT on this [list](#) of high-risk industries.

Additional information, FAQs, and the Injury Tracking Application can be found on OSHA's [ITA page](#).

NEW REQUIREMENTS: FORM 300 AND FORM 301 ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION REQUIRED BY MARCH 2

Covered establishments in designated [high-hazard industries](#) that had 100 or more employees in the prior calendar year will need to electronically submit information from their Form 300, Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses, and Form 301, Injury and Illness Incident Report, through OSHA's Injury Tracking Application (ITA). This is in addition to submitting information from their Form 300A, Summary of Work Related Injuries and Illnesses.

Establishments covered by federal OSHA can use the [ITA Coverage Application](#) to determine if they're required to electronically submit their injury and illness information to OSHA. Establishments covered by an OSHA-approved State Plan should contact their [State Plan](#) directly to determine reporting requirements.

###

BOI NEW GOV. FILING REQUIREMENT

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has issued a final rule implementing the Corporate Transparency Act's (CTA) beneficial ownership information (BOI) reporting provisions. This rule aims to strengthen national security, protect the U.S. financial system, and provide essential information to various authorities and institutions.

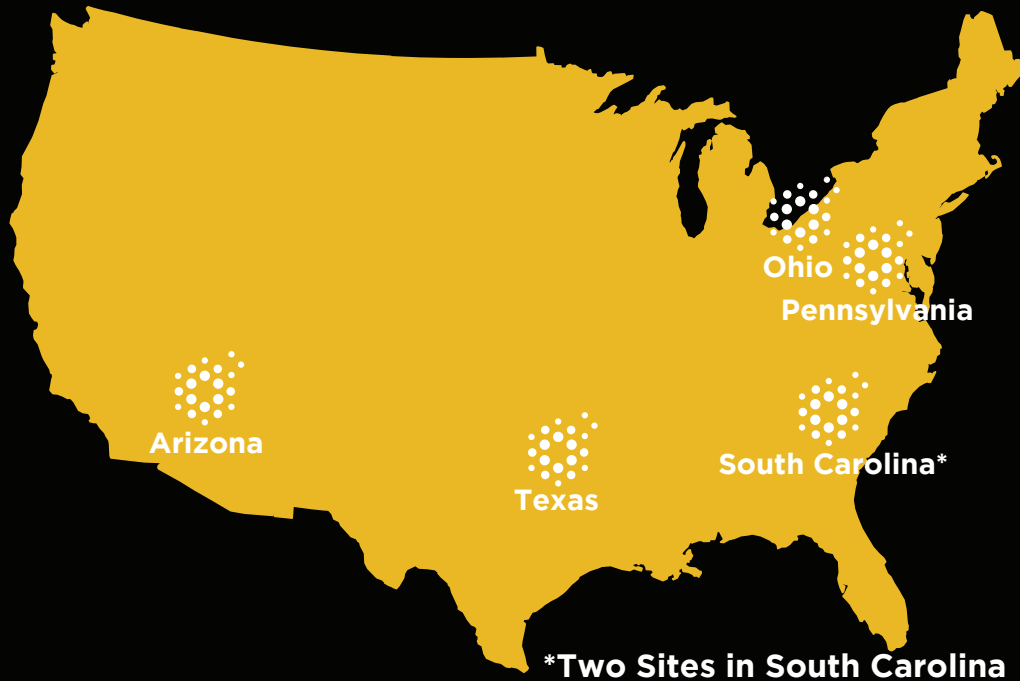


Key Points:

1. Purpose: The rule addresses the misuse of corporate structures, such as shell and front companies, by illicit actors to launder money and hide assets in the U.S., posing



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BOI (Cont'd.)



threats to national security and economic prosperity.

2. Background: Recent events, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, highlight the use of U.S. and non-U.S. shell companies by criminals to evade sanctions. The rule intends to make it more difficult for such activities, enhancing U.S. national security.

3. Impact on Small Businesses: While millions of businesses are formed yearly in the U.S., the rule seeks to minimize burdens on small businesses and reporting companies. The expected cost for most reporting companies with simple structures is around \$85 per initial BOI report.

4. Reporting Requirements:

- Reporting companies include virtually all domestic and foreign S-Corps, C-Corps, and LLC entities created by registering with a state or equivalent government agency before or after Jan. 1, 2024.
- Beneficial owners are individuals exercising substantial control or owning at least 25% of a reporting company. Exemptions exist for certain individuals.
- Company applicants are defined as individuals directly filing relevant documents.
- Beneficial Ownership Information Reports require reporting companies to provide details about beneficial owners and company applicants, including names, birthdates, addresses, and identification document information.

5. Timing: *The rule becomes effective on January 1, 2024. Reporting companies created or registered before this date have until January 1, 2025, to file initial reports, while those created or registered after January 1, 2024, must file within 30 days of notice.*

Reporting companies also have 30 days to report changes or correct inaccuracies in previously filed reports.

In summary, the BOI reporting rule is designed to enhance transparency, thwart illicit financial activities, and fortify the U.S. financial system, with a focus on national security and protecting small businesses. For more information visit: <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>

###



Effective immediately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is removing 10.1 square miles from the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) quarantine area in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York. The areas include portions of the Townships of Babylon, Huntington, and Oyster Bay on Long Island. APHIS determined that these areas could be removed from the quarantine after the program completed final surveys of host trees. The remaining 42.9 square miles under quarantine in the Townships of Babylon, Huntington, and Oyster Bay will remain in the quarantine area. The attached Federal Order provides notification of the rescinded quarantine area. To contain the spread of ALB, all movement of regulated articles from the remaining quarantine area in Nassau and Suffolk Counties must be handled in accordance with [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.51 et seq.](#)

The full lists designating the ALB quarantine areas and regulated articles are published on the [APHIS ALB webpage](#). For more information regarding APHIS' ALB Eradication Program, please contact National Policy Manager, Kathryn Bronsky, at kathryn.e.bronsky@usda.gov or (301) 851-2147.

###

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OK, TN FIRE ANT QUARANTINE



Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a Federal Order that expands the existing imported fire ant (IFA; *S. invicta*, *S. richteri*, and hybrids of these species) quarantine areas in Oklahoma and Tennessee. The following list describes the action in this Federal Order:

1. **Oklahoma:** Extends the IFA quarantine area to the entire county for Haskell County.
2. **Tennessee:** Extends the IFA quarantine area to the entire county for Clay, Claiborne, Campbell, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Robertson, and Scott Counties.

APHIS is taking these actions based upon verification from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Division of Consumer and Industry Services that IFA is present and established in the areas listed. APHIS will follow this action by publishing a Notice in the Federal Register.

The full lists designating IFA quarantine areas and regulated articles are published on the [APHIS IFA webpage](#). For additional information on the Federal IFA regulatory program, please contact the IFA National Policy Manager, Ron Weeks, at Ron.D.Weeks@usda.gov or 919-559-4311.

###

EPA ON "ABSENCE OF AN INGREDIENT" CLAIMS



EPA has issued guidance to clarify how it will evaluate "absence of an ingredient" claims for pesticide products regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). These claims appear on pesticide labeling and state that the product is free of a particular ingredient. "Absence of an ingredient" claims that are false or misleading are not permissible under FIFRA. In limited instances, where information indicates that these types of claims are not false or misleading, EPA will allow these types of claims. In this guidance, EPA discusses some specific "absence of an ingredient" claims commonly proposed by applicants, such as "absence of bleach," "absence of phosphates," and "absence of DEET."

Generally, before a pesticide may be sold or distributed in the U.S., it must be registered with EPA under FIFRA. For a pesticide to meet the FIFRA registration standard, applicants must, among other things, demonstrate that the pesticide product's labeling is consistent with the requirements of FIFRA. These requirements include that the pesticide not be misbranded. A pesticide may be misbranded if its labeling bears any statement, design, or graphic representation that is false or misleading.

EPA will consider "absence of ingredient" claims on a case-by-case basis and may allow those claims if there is information that ensures the claims are not false or misleading. In addition, in some instances, "absence of an ingredient" claims should include a qualifying statement that is prominently displayed and adjacent to the claim (e.g., "Not a safety claim"), so that the potential to mislead or confuse the public is limited.

The "Absence of an Ingredient" Claims Guidance is available on [EPA's website](#) under "Product Label Topics."

###

NEW PFAS TEST



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced a new methodology for detecting per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in plastic containers. The new method will provide an additional tool for EPA and for industries that use high-density polyethylene (HDPE) containers to identify PFAS contamination.

The method released establishes robust and validated procedures that allow reliable detection and quantification of 32 PFAS directly from the walls of the container itself. This method can accurately identify PFAS contamination at levels as low as 0.002 parts-per-billion (or 2 parts-per-trillion). In releasing this method to the public, EPA is enabling the industries that utilize HDPE containers, including container manufacturers, to test the containers before use, preventing PFAS contamination of pesticides and other products stored in HDPE plastic containers. The method also has wide appli-

PFAS (Cont'd.)

capability for other industries, as it can be modified to test for PFAS in additional solid samples such as fabric, packaging paper, and more. Read more about this action and other actions to address PFAS in HDPE plastic [here](#). Read about wider EPA efforts to address PFAS [here](#).

###

FMCSA TO REMOVE 15K MEDICAL EXAMINERS



Federal trucking regulators plan to disqualify more than 15,000 physicians responsible for certifying that truck drivers are healthy enough to get behind the wheel. Some of the physicians may have just been inactive in maintaining their account in the [National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners](#), a group of physicians who perform physical qualification examinations of interstate commercial motor vehicle drivers. Others may need to get registered and receive updated refresher medical training, according to a Jan. 24 [Federal Register](#) announcement made by the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#).

“FMCSA proposes to remove medical examiners from its National Registry who have failed to access their National Registry account using login.gov and have failed to update the profile information in their National Registry account as required,” the announcement said. “There are approximately 15,727 medical examiners who have not accessed their National Registry account using login.gov, and as a result, are not able to fulfill regulatory requirements, such as reporting results of physical qualification examinations performed on commercial motor vehicle drivers, receiving FMCSA communications and completing required training.” Those examiners who fail to make the required account updates by Feb. 26 will have their names removed from the registry.

###

FMCSA WANTS TRUCKS LIMITED TO 68 MPH



The U.S. Department of Transportation recently released its [Report on DOT Significant Rulemakings](#), outlining potential timing for rules in the works at a variety of DOT agencies, including the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#).

For the first time, the agency signaled that trucks equipped with an “electronic engine control unit (ECU) capable of governing the maximum speed be required to limit the CMV to a speed to be determined by the rulemaking and to maintain that ECU setting for the service life of the vehicle. The proposed speed at which FMCSA hopes to require motor carriers’ speed limiters to be set is 68 mph.

As reported in [DOT’s previous Significant Rulemakings report last year](#), FMCSA plans to proceed with a motor carrier-based speed limiter rulemaking by preparing a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking. The new SNPRM would supersede FMCSA’s joint proposal with

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68MPH (Cont'd.)

the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2016. FMCSA said it will propose to require truck owners or operators to set the engine control unit to a maximum speed of 68 miles per hours, according to the new report. That will apply to trucks with a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 26,000 pounds, whichever is greater -- and only trucks manufactured after model year 2003.

###

AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY BRAKING SYSTEMS

FMCSA is also planning to publish a final rule by April 30, 2024, to [require and standardize equipment performance for AEB systems on heavy trucks.](#)

The agency, along with NHTSA, recently closed a comment period on a notice of proposed rulemaking proposing to mandate AEBs on trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds. Numerous operators responded with concerns, [particularly about false activations of existing systems.](#)



###

SCOTUS MAY LIMIT AGENCY POWERS



The Supreme Court's recent oral argument on Chevron deference, the doctrine requiring courts to defer to agency interpretations of ambiguous statutes, suggests a potential modification or overturning of the doctrine. Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh expressed strong leanings towards overturning Chevron, citing concerns about its exploitation against individuals and disruptions caused by changing administrations. Conservative justices questioned the legal and practical basis of Chevron, emphasizing issues related to statutory ambiguity and separation of powers. On the other hand, Justices Kagan, Sotomayor, and Jackson favored maintaining Chevron to keep judges out of complex policy decisions. The ultimate decision may hinge on Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Barrett, who showed less explicit positions during oral arguments. While predicting the outcome based on questioning is uncertain, there is a significant chance that Chevron might be overruled or substantially modified, potentially granting litigants greater leverage against agency actions.

###

INDUSTRY NEWS

ASBESTOS IN MULCH SPARKS CONCERNS

Recent reports of asbestos contamination in mulch in Australia have raised eyebrows and sparked concerns. Asbestos, a known carcinogen, has long been associated with serious health risks, and its presence in unexpected places can trigger worry and confusion. Australia has recently been grappling with a surprising revelation as asbestos was discovered in certain batches of mulch. The asbestos is a result of a provision in the nation's recycling regulations that let a minimal amount of potentially asbestos containing materials be mixed with mulch in the recycling process. As a result, a significant amount of asbestos has been detected in public gardens and landscapes in Sydney and surrounding areas causing much public concern for health and safety, and EPA of New South Wales has been criticized for lax enforcement.



Mulch, commonly used in gardening and landscaping, is generally considered a safe and organic material. However, the presence of asbestos, a mineral once widely used in construction and insulation, has raised alarm bells among consumers and authorities alike.

In response to the discovery, Australian authorities have launched investigations to identify the source of the contamination and ensure that affected products are

ASBESTOS (Cont'd.)

removed from the market. Public health campaigns have also been initiated to inform the public about potential risks and precautions to take when handling mulch. The incident has led to increased scrutiny of manufacturing processes and supply chains within the mulch industry in Australia. While the issue is primarily localized to Australia, news of asbestos contamination in mulch has the potential to cause concern on a global scale. Asbestos-related health risks are well-documented, and any association with a commonly used product like mulch can create fear and skepticism worldwide. In particular, countries like the United States, where asbestos is not a typical concern in mulch, may experience heightened anxieties among consumers.

Foreign news reports, especially those highlighting health hazards associated with mulch, can contribute to misinformation and a lack of confidence in locally available products. It becomes crucial for authorities and industry stakeholders in the USA to clarify the situation, reinforce safety standards, and reassure the public that their mulch supply remains safe.

###

CA LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS



In a recent legislative bill, the state of California provided the following industry and Environmental findings that may be of interest to Council members:

The (Calif.) Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) On average, California communities use 10 percent of water statewide, agriculture uses 40 percent, and the environment uses 50 percent, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.
- (b) According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, about one-half of California's urban water usage is for outdoor uses such as landscaping, pools, and washing cars, and 70 percent of that usage is residential. This means that, of California's total water use, approximately 3.5 percent is outdoor residential use.
- (c) According to the Public Policy Institute of California, total urban water use has plateaued, even though California's population grew by 5.5 million people from 2000 to 2020.
- (d) The State Water Resources Control Board found all of the following in a January 2022 report on the environmental effects of potential urban water use efficiency standards on urban retail water suppliers, wastewater management agencies, and urban landscapes:
 - (1) Given the diversity of urban forests and urban contexts across California, reduced residential outdoor water use associated with Chapter 15 of the Statutes of 2018 (Assembly Bill 1668 of the 2017–18 Regular Session) and Chapter 14 of the Statutes of 2018 (Senate Bill 606 of the 2017–18 Regular Session) is expected to have varying impacts on urban trees.
 - (2) If the needs of existing trees are not fully considered in the design of water-wise yards, the process of landscape conversion can physically damage existing tree roots and create sudden changes in irrigation, potentially leading to tree water stress and decline.
 - (3) Even when drip irrigation is installed with trees' water needs in mind, it may not supply enough water to alleviate tree water stress under high-temperature conditions in arid climates, which could be a concern in arid southern or inland regions of the state.
- (e) The State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission has found the cooling effect of an average size lawn is equal to about nine tons of air conditioning. The average home has an air conditioner with a three- or four-ton capacity.

CA (Cont'd.)

- (f) One 50-foot-by-50-foot patch of turfgrass produces enough oxygen for a family of four.
- (g) An average-sized healthy lawn can capture as much as 300 pounds of carbon per year and one soccer field can offset the carbon produced by a car driving 3,000 miles.
- (h) Environmental heating is reduced by turfgrass. On a hot summer day, a well maintained turfgrass area will be at least 30 degrees cooler than asphalt and 14 degrees cooler than bare soil.
- (i) Climate appropriate turfgrass species, such as warm season turfgrasses, require 20 percent less water than cool season turfgrasses, according to a University of California study.

###

MEMBER NEWS

WAUPACA SELLS ID PLANT

Waupaca Northwoods LLC announced that it has sold the assets at its facility in Nampa, Idaho to Oldcastle APG's Lawn & Garden business.

"We are saddened to separate this location and valued team members from our family of operations, yet pleased at the opportunities ahead for them given Oldcastle's size and wherewithal in the National Lawn & Garden market place," said Randy Tyre, Waupaca CEO. "Lingering effects from the Covid Era and the collateral damage caused by benevolent government programs significantly impacted this facility. While we weathered the storm and are on the road to recovery, Oldcastle is in a better position to more rapidly rebuild and grow in this market area. Waupaca Northwoods will remain focused on competitively expanding the business at our other locations."

In 2008, Waupaca Northwoods sold (4) of its Midwest locations to Oldcastle, while focusing on the Western US markets. In 2014, Waupaca Northwoods acquired the assets of National Bark, expanding its product offering and territory. "There remains ample growth opportunity in the areas we continue to serve along with expanding into markets we have yet to develop," said Tyre. "We'll continue seeking strategic acquisitions and mutually beneficial business relationships."

Tim Ortman, President, Oldcastle APG, said, "We are excited to welcome Waupaca Northwoods' Nampa location to the APG Family, marking the debut of our Lawn & Garden business in Western states as we continue expanding our soil, bark, mulch and decorative stone portfolio across North America. The addition of the Nampa facility's reputable performance and quality assets will create new opportunities for our customers to access our comprehensive suite of outdoor products in this growing region, furthering our mission to help our customers Live Well Outside."

The integration of the Nampa facility into Oldcastle APG's Lawn & Garden network extends visibility and accessibility for current and potential customers seeking a full range of landscaping products. This acquisition is another key milestone in Oldcastle APG's strategy to provide end-to-end outdoor living solutions to customers across North America.

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New Member Welcome



The Mulch & Soil Council is pleased to welcome the following companies as new members:

PRODUCERS:

C & J Bark Haulers, Inc.
Justin Smith
16665 Gratiot Rd
Hemlock, MI 48626
justinsmith.cjbark@yahoo.com
Cjbarkinc.com

East Coast Materials Management LLC
Dominic Lepore
46 Lathrop Road Extension
Plainfield, CT 06374
dominicl@ec-mm.com
www.ec-mm.com

Prairie Dirt Solutions
Susan Bergen
1529 24th Ave SW
Norman, OK 73072
susan@bergenenterprises.com
www.prairiedirtsolutions.com

P.V.P. Industries Inc
Michael Dunlavey
9819 Penniman Rd
North Bloomfield, OH 44450
mike@pvpind.com
www.pvpind.com

The Davey Tree Expert Company
Rick Hogan
405 Hardman Ave S
South St Paul, MN 55075
rick.hogan@davey.com
www.davey.com/natural-mulch

Tri-State Garden Supply
dba Gardenscape
Brian Arnold
Box 184; Route 38 and Sandy
Point Road
Eau Claire, PA 16030
barnold@gardenscapeinc.com
www.gardenscapeinc.com

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Certified Product News

CERTIFIED PRODUCT

	Premium Potting Soil
	Standard Potting Soil
	Landscape Soil & Soil Amendment
	Specialty Soils
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mulch

This product has been registered and tested for conformance to the standards of the Mulch & Soil Council for the indicated product category. The Mulch & Soil standards do not contain a product category for pesticides, and this certification mark does not apply to pesticide claims. For more information, refer to the MSC website at www.mulchandsoilcouncil.org.

The following is a report on the latest product certifications, renewals and decertifications:

New Product Premium Soil

Sun Gro Horticulture

Sunshine Black Bear Indoor & Outdoor Potting Mix

Recertified Mulch

Maibec Inc.
Maibec Inc.
Maibec Inc.
Maibec Inc.
Margo State Line, Inc.
Oldcastle Lawn & Garden, Inc.
Phillips Bark Processing Co., Inc.
Hyponex Corporation
Hyponex Corporation
Hyponex Corporation
Hyponex Corporation
Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Margo State Line, Inc.
Margo State Line, Inc.
Margo State Line, Inc.
Ohio Mulch Supply, Inc.

Cedar Mulch
Horizon Black Cedar Mulch
Nevada Brown Cedar Mulch
Yucatan Red Cedar Mulch
Professional Premium Red Mulch - Margo State Line
Lumberjack Kiddie Mat
Gardenese Cypress Mulch Blend
Florida Select Natural Eucalyptus Mulch
COLORSTAY by Scotts Black Mulch
COLORSTAY by Scotts Brown Mulch
COLORSTAY by Scotts Red Mulch
Vigoro Premium Black Mulch by Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Vigoro Premium Red Mulch by Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Vigoro Premium Brown Mulch by Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Texas Native Premium Pine Mulch
Vigoro Premium Red Mulch by Margo State Line
Vigoro Premium Black Mulch by Margo State Line
Vigoro Premium Brown Mulch by Margo State Line
100% Pure Cypress 112E

Recertified Mulch

Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Austin Wood Recycling, Ltd.
Homer Industries, LLC
Homer Industries, LLC
Homer Industries, LLC
Homer Industries, LLC
Homer Industries, LLC
Britton Industries
Britton Industries
Britton Industries

Texas Native Cafe Brown Mulch
Texas Native Contractor's Blend
ColorScape Blend Red Mulch
ColorScape Blend Brown Mulch
ColorScape Blend Gold Mulch
ColorScape Blend Black Mulch
Premium Red Mulch
Premium Natural Mulch
Premium Black Mulch

Recertified Premium Soil

Sun Gro Horticulture
Sun Gro Horticulture
Sun Gro Horticulture
Sun Gro Horticulture

Sun Gro Horticulture
Kellogg Garden Products
Kellogg Garden Products
Kellogg Garden Products
Sun Gro Horticulture
Miracle-Gro Lawn Products, Inc.

Sun Gro Horticulture
Sun Gro Horticulture

Sunshine All Purpose Potting Mix
Sunshine Professional Growing Mix
Black Gold All Purpose Potting Mix
Black Gold Natural & Org. Potting Mix + Fertilizer
(0.09-0.03-0.03)
Black Gold Waterhold Cocoblend Potting Soil
Kellogg Potting Soil
Kellogg Palm, Cactus & Citrus
Kellogg Shade Mix
Sunshine Natural & Organic Planting Mix
Nature's Care Organic Raised Bed Soil w/Water
Conserve 0.09-0.08-0.09
Black Gold Natural & Organic Cocoblend Potting Mix
Black Gold Moisture Supreme Container Mix

Recertified Specialty Soil

Kellogg Garden Products
Sun Gro Horticulture

Gardeners Potting Soil
Black Gold Natural & Organic Seedling Mix

Recertified Landscape Soil

Kellogg Garden Products
Amerigrow Recycling
Kellogg Garden Products
KSI (Kellogg)
KSI (Kellogg)
Kellogg Garden Products

Miracle-Gro Lawn Products, Inc.
Miracle-Gro Lawn Products, Inc.

Miracle-Gro Lawn Products, Inc.
Sun Gro Horticulture
Sun Gro Horticulture
Sun Gro Horticulture
Sun Gro Horticulture

All Natural Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables (Red)
Eco Soil
Gardeners All Purpose Planting Mix
Gardeners Top Soil
Gardeners Steer Manure
Kellogg All Natural Garden Soil for Trees, Shrubs
& Roses
Miracle-Gro Garden Soil Flowers 0.09-0.05-0.07
Miracle-Gro Garden Soil, Cactus, Palm & Citrus
0.10-0.09-0.07 (w/0.07 iron)
Miracle-Gro Garden Soil All Purpose 0.09-0.05-0.07
Black Gold Natural & Organic Garden Compost Blend
Black Gold Natural & Organic Garden Soil
Black Gold Natural & Organic Flower & Vegetable Soil
Black Gold Natural & Organic Ultra Outdoor Planting Soil

Withdrawn Mulch

The Scotts Company
The Scotts Company
The Scotts Company

Hyponex Corporation
Hyponex Corporation
Hyponex Corporation
Miracle-Gro Lawn Products, Inc.
The Scotts Company
The Scotts Company
The Scotts Company

Earthgro Decorative Hardwood Mulch
Earthgro Decorative Groundcover Bark
Scotts Nature Scapes Advanced Color Enhanced
Mulch - Sierra Red
Nature's Garden Brown Mulch
Nature's Garden Red Mulch
Nature's Garden Black Mulch
Miracle-Gro Garden Mulch
Scotts Florida Select Red Mulch
Scotts Florida Select Brown Mulch
Scotts Florida Select Natural Mulch

Certified Product News

Withdrawn Premium Soil
Miracle-Gro Lawn Products, Inc.

Nature's Care Organic Potting Mix w/Water
Conserve 0.18-0.10-0.12

Withdrawn Specialty Soil
Terrace Brands

Southern Roots Gardening Organic Potting Mix
0.06-0.04-0.05

Withdrawn Landscape Soil
Miracle-Gro Lawn Products, Inc.
Terrace Brands

Nature's Care Organic Garden Soil 0.08-0.06-0.07
Southern Roots Gardening Organic Garden Soil
0.04-0.03-0.03
Miracle-Gro Garden Soil All Purpose - For In-Ground
Use 0.10-0.06-0.08

Miracle-Gro Lawn Products, Inc.

Mark Your Calendar

53rd MSC Annual Meeting
Palacio Del Rio Hilton Hotel
San Antonio, TX
October 8 - 10, 2024



CLASSIFIEDS

2020 Hamer Side Sealer

Manufacturer: Hamer

Year: 2020

Location: Cumming, GA

Price: \$9,000

Contact: equipment@garick.com



Info: s/n 982040108. Excellent working condition. Only used for 1,000 bags.

Hamer Volumetric Feeder Model 300VF

Manufacturer: Hamer

Model: 300VF

Year: unknown

Location: Cumming, GA

Price: \$39,000

Contact: equipment@garick.com

Information: Hardly used.



2006 CBI 6800T Horizontal Grinder

Manufacturer: CBI

Model: 6800T

Year: 2006

Location: Reedsville, Pennsylvania

Price: \$275,00



Company Contact: Logan Metzler, 717-437-3347, logan.metzler@metzlerfp.com

Information: 13,160 Hours, CAT 3412 Engine, 1050 HP, Well maintained, strong unit ready for work.

CLASSIFIEDS

2019 CAT 938M Wheel Loader

Manufacturer: CAT

Model: 938M

Year: 2019

Location: Reedsville, Pennsylvania

Price: \$235,00



Company Contact: Logan Metzler, 717-437-3347, logan.metzler@metzlerfp.com

Information: 998 Hours, Well maintained low hour loader. Comes with 6.5 Yard CAT Light Material bucket. 6.5 Yard Craig High Tip bucket available for extra cost.

Amadas Semi-Automated Palletizer

Model: PL02

Year: 2015 or 2016 (2 available)

Price: \$35k or best offer

Location: Galivants Ferry, SC

Contact: Hackney Parker @ 305-393-4950 or hackney@seasidemulch.com

Information: Bag flattener and conveyors and optional 10 ton press



Lantech Q300 Wrapper

Model: Q300

Serial #: QM029512

Price: \$7.5k

Location: Galivants Ferry, SC

Contact: Hackney Parker @ 305-393-4950 or hackney@seasidemulch.com

Information: 120 V

