The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Earns Top Score in Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2022 Corporate Equality Index

February 8, 2022

ScottsMiracle-Gro earns 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's annual assessment of LGBTQ+ workplace equality

MARYSVILLE, Ohio, Feb. 08, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's leading marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden as well as indoor and hydroponic growing products, proudly announced today that it received a score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2022 Corporate Equality Index, the nation's foremost benchmarking survey and report measuring corporate policies and practices related to LGBTQ+ workplace equality. ScottsMiracle-Gro joins the ranks of over 840 major U.S. businesses that also earned top marks this year.

"We are committed to creating a workplace community at ScottsMiracle-Gro where each of our associates feels comfortable, supported and proud bringing their whole self to work," said Denise Stump, Executive Vice President, Global Human Resources, and Chief Ethics Officer for ScottsMiracle-Gro. "We know there is always more work to do, but we're honored to receive this recognition of our progress. Thank you to our associates who have been a collaborative force on our journey."

"When the Human Rights Campaign Foundation created the Corporate Equality Index 20 years ago, we dreamed that LGBTQ+ workers—from the factory floor to corporate headquarters, in big cities and small towns—could have access to the policies and benefits needed to thrive and live life authentically," said Jay Brown, Human Rights Campaign Senior Vice President of Programs, Research and Training. "We are proud that the Corporate Equality Index paved the way to that reality for countless LGBTQ+ workers in America and abroad. But there is still more to do, which is why we are raising the bar yet again to create more equitable workplaces and a better tomorrow for LGBTQ+ workers everywhere. Congratulations to ScottsMiracle-Gro for achieving the title of 'best places to work for LGBTQ+ equality' and working to advance inclusion in the workplace."

The results of the 2022 CEI showcase how 1,271 U.S.-based companies are not only promoting LGBTQ+-friendly workplace policies in the U.S., but also for the 56% of CEI-rated companies with global operations who are helping advance the cause of LGBTQ+ inclusion in workplaces abroad. ScottsMiracle-Gro's efforts in satisfying all of the CEI's criteria earned a 100 percent ranking and the designation as one of the *Best Places to Work for LGBTQ+ Equality*.

In 2002, the first year of the CEI, only 13 companies achieved a top-score, demonstrating the incredible impact the CEI has had on the business world over its 20-year life. This year's CEI reflects growth across every measurement category, from the adoption of inclusive non-discrimination policies, to equitable healthcare benefits for transgender employees.

The CEI rates employers providing these crucial protections to over 20 million U.S. workers and an additional 18 million abroad. Companies rated in the CEI include Fortune magazine's 500 largest publicly traded businesses, American Lawyer magazine's top 200 revenue-grossing law firms (AmLaw 200), and hundreds of publicly and privately held mid- to large-sized businesses.

The CEI rates companies on detailed criteria falling under four central pillars:

- Non-discrimination policies across business entities;
- Equitable benefits for LGBTQ+ workers and their families;
- Supporting an inclusive culture; and,
- Corporate social responsibility.

The full report is available online at www.hrc.org/cei.

Learn more about ScottsMiracle-Gro and its purpose to GroMoreGood at www.scottsmiraclegro.com.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation *is the educational arm of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) people. Through its programs, the HRC Foundation seeks to make transformational change in the everyday lives of LGBTQ+ people, shedding light on inequity and deepening the public's understanding of LGBTQ+ issues, with a clear focus on advancing transgender and racial justice. Its work has transformed the landscape for more than 15 million workers, 11 million students, 1 million clients in the adoption and foster care system and so much more. The HRC Foundation provides direct consultation and technical assistance to institutions and communities, driving the advancement of inclusive policies and practices; it builds the capacity of future leaders and allies through fellowship and training programs; and, with the firm belief that we are stronger working together, it forges partnerships with advocates in the U.S. and around the globe to increase our impact and shape the future of our work.*

About ScottsMiracle-Gro

With approximately $4.9 billion in sales, the Company is one of the world's largest marketers of branded consumer products for lawn and garden care. The Company's brands are among the most recognized in the industry. The Company's Scotts ®, Miracle-Gro® and Ortho® brands are market-leading in their categories. The Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, The Hawthorne Gardening Company, is a leading provider of nutrients, lighting and other materials used in the indoor and hydroponic growing segment. Another wholly-owned subsidiary, The Hawthorne Collective, has been established to invest in emerging areas of the cannabis industry. For additional information, visit us at www.scottsmiraclegro.com.

Contact:
Molly Jennings
ScottsMiracle-Gro
C (561) 350.5734
Molly.Jennings@Scotts.com