
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): January 24, 2024 (January 22, 2024)

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	001-11593 (Commission File Number)	31-1414921 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
14111 Scottslawn Road (Address of principal executive offices)	Marysville	Ohio
		43041 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (937) 644-0011

Not applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Shares, \$0.01 stated value	SMG	NYSE

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b of this chapter). Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Amendment and Restatement of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan.

At the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company (the “Company”) held on January 22, 2024, the Company’s shareholders approved an amendment and restatement of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan (the “Plan”) to increase the maximum number of common shares, without par value (“Common Shares”), available for grant to participants under the Plan by 2,500,000 Common Shares.

A summary of the Plan, as amended and restated effective January 22, 2024, is contained in the Company’s definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 13, 2023 in connection with the 2024 Annual Shareholders Meeting under the heading “Proposal Number 4 — Approval of Amendment and Restatement of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan” and is incorporated herein by reference.

The foregoing summary is not intended to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 10.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 5.07. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

On January 22, 2024, the Company held its Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Annual Meeting”) as a virtual meeting and shareholders were able to participate in the Annual Meeting, vote and submit questions via live webcast.

At the close of business on November 27, 2023, the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, there were 56,679,088 Common Shares of the Company issued and outstanding, each share being entitled to one vote. At the Annual Meeting, the holders of 51,234,720 Common Shares, or approximately 90% of the outstanding Common Shares, were represented in person or by proxy and, therefore, a quorum was present.

At the Annual Meeting, the Company’s shareholders voted on the following matters:

Proposal 1 — Election of Directors.

Each of Thomas N. Kelly Jr., Brian E. Sandoval, Peter E. Shumlin and John R. Vines was elected as a director of the Company to serve for a term expiring at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held in 2027. The results of the vote were as follows:

	<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	<u>Broker Non-Vote</u>
Thomas N. Kelly Jr.	43,300,810	1,700,973	260,917	5,972,020
Brian E. Sandoval	43,062,813	1,939,953	259,934	5,972,020
Peter E. Shumlin	43,056,292	1,948,399	258,009	5,972,020
John R. Vines	39,113,321	5,891,676	257,703	5,972,020

Proposal 2 — Advisory Vote on the Compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officers.

The compensation of the Company’s named executive officers was approved on an advisory basis. The results of the vote were as follows:

<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	<u>Broker Non-Votes</u>
43,128,604	1,873,345	260,751	5,972,020

Proposal 3 — Ratification of the Selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024.

The Audit Committee's selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm was ratified. The results of the vote were as follows:

<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	<u>Broker Non-Votes</u>
50,323,470	692,202	219,048	—

Proposal 4 – To Approve an Amendment and Restatement of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan to Increase the Maximum Number of Common Shares Available for Grant Participants.

As discussed in Item 5.02 above, the amendment and restatement of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Amended and Restated Long-Term Incentive Plan to increase the maximum number of common shares available for grant to participants under the Plan was approved. The results of the vote were as follows:

<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	<u>Broker Non-Votes</u>
30,209,000	14,795,638	258,062	5,972,020

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(a) Financial statements of businesses acquired:

Not applicable.

(b) Pro forma financial information:

Not applicable.

(c) Shell company transactions:

Not applicable.

(d) Exhibits:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.1	The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan (Effective January 22, 2024)
10.2	Form of Standard Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for Non-Employee Directors (with Related Dividend Equivalents) which may be made under The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan
10.3	Form of Deferred Stock Unit Award Agreement for Non-Employee Directors (with Related Dividend Equivalents) which may be made under The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY

Dated: January 24, 2024

By: /s/ DIMITER TODOROV

Printed Name: Dimiter Todorov

Title: Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary &
Chief Compliance Officer

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Current Report on Form 8-K
Dated January 24, 2024
The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

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**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY
LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN
(EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 22, 2024)**

Article 1.

Establishment, Purpose, and Duration

1.1 *Establishment.* This Plan, an incentive compensation plan, was established by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. This Plan was originally effective on January 26, 2006, was amended and restated effective as of October 30, 2007, January 20, 2010, January 17, 2013, January 27, 2017, January 24, 2022, January 23, 2023 and is hereby further amended and restated effective as of January 22, 2024 (the “Effective Date”), as set forth in this document. This Plan shall remain in effect as provided in Section 1.3 hereof.

This Plan permits the grant of Nonqualified Stock Options, Incentive Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, Performance Shares, Performance Units and Other Stock-Based Awards. Awards granted under the Plan prior to the Effective Date shall continue to be governed by the applicable Award Agreements and the terms of the Plan without giving effect to the changes made pursuant to this amendment and restatement, and the Committee shall administer such Awards in accordance with the Plan without giving effect to changes made pursuant to this amendment and restatement.

1.2 *Purpose of this Plan.* The purpose of this Plan is to provide a means whereby Employees, Directors, and Third-Party Service Providers develop a sense of proprietorship and personal involvement in the development and financial success of the Company, and to encourage them to devote their best efforts to the business of the Company, thereby advancing the interests of the Company and its shareholders. A further purpose of this Plan is to provide a means through which the Company may attract able individuals to become Employees or serve as Directors or Third-Party Service Providers and to provide a means whereby those individuals upon whom the responsibilities of the successful administration and management of the Company are of importance, can acquire and maintain stock ownership, thereby strengthening their concern for the welfare of the Company.

1.3 *Duration of this Plan.* Unless sooner terminated as provided herein, this Plan shall terminate on January 23, 2032. After this Plan is terminated, no Awards may be granted but Awards previously granted shall remain outstanding in accordance with their applicable terms and conditions and this Plan’s terms and conditions.

Article 2.

Definitions

Whenever used in this Plan, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below, and when the meaning is intended, the initial letter of the word shall be capitalized.

2.1 *“Affiliate”* shall mean any corporation or other entity (including, but not limited to, a partnership or a limited liability company), that is affiliated with the Company through stock or equity ownership or otherwise, and is designated as an Affiliate for purposes of this Plan by the Committee.

2.2 *“Award”* means, individually or collectively, a grant under this Plan of Nonqualified Stock Options, Incentive Stock Options, SARs, Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, Performance Shares, Performance Units or Other Stock-Based Awards, in each case subject to the terms of this Plan.

2.3 *“Award Agreement”* means either (i) a written agreement entered into by the Company and a Participant setting forth the terms and provisions applicable to an Award granted under this Plan, or (ii) a written or electronic statement issued by the Company to a Participant describing the terms and provisions of such Award, including in each case any amendment or modification thereof. The Committee may provide for the use of electronic, internet or other non-paper Award Agreements, and the use of electronic, internet or other non-paper means for the acceptance thereof and actions thereunder by a Participant.

2.4 “Beneficial Owner” or “Beneficial Ownership” shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Rule 13d-3 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act.

2.5 “Board” or “Board of Directors” means the Board of Directors of the Company.

2.6 “Cause” means, unless otherwise specified in an Award Agreement or in an applicable employment agreement between the Company and a Participant, with respect to any Participant, that the Participant has:

- (a) willfully and materially breached the terms of any employment agreement between the Participant and the Company;
- (b) engaged in willful misconduct that has materially injured the business of the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate;
- (c) willfully committed a material act of fraud or material breach of the Participant’s duty of loyalty to the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate;
- (d) willfully and continually failed to attempt in good faith to perform the Participant’s duties hereunder (other than any such failure resulting from the Participant’s incapacity due to physical or mental illness), after written notice has been delivered to the Participant by the Company, which notice specifically identifies the manner in which the Participant has not attempted in good faith to perform his duties; or
- (e) been convicted, or plead guilty or *nolo contendere* for the commission of an act or acts constituting a felony under the laws of the United States or any state thereof.

For purposes of subsections (a) - (d), no act, or failure to act, on the Participant’s part shall be deemed “willful” unless, the Company reasonably determines, in good faith, that it was done, or omitted to be done, by the Participant not in good faith and without reasonable belief that his act, or failure to act, was in the best interest of the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate.

2.7 “Change in Control” means the occurrence of any of the following:

- (a) The members of the Board on the Effective Date (“Incumbent Directors”) cease for any reason other than death to constitute at least a majority of the members of the Board, provided that any director whose election, or nomination for election by the Company’s shareholders, was approved by a vote of at least a majority of the then Incumbent Directors also will be treated as an Incumbent Director; or
- (b) Any “person,” including a “group” (as such terms are used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Exchange Act, but excluding the Company, any of its Subsidiaries, any employee benefit plan of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries or Hagedorn Partnership, L.P. or any party related to Hagedorn Partnership, L.P. as determined by the Committee) becomes the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing more than thirty percent (30%) of the combined voting power of the Company’s then outstanding securities; or
- (c) Consummation of (i) the merger or other business combination of the Company with or into another entity in which the shareholders of the Company immediately before the effective date of such merger or other business combination own less than fifty percent (50%) of the voting power in such entity; or (ii) the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company; or
- (d) The adoption by the shareholders of the Company of a plan relating to the liquidation or dissolution of the Company; or
- (e) For any reason, Hagedorn Partnership, L.P. or any party related to Hagedorn Partnership, L.P. as determined by the Committee becomes the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing more than forty-nine percent (49%) of the combined voting power of the Company’s then outstanding securities.

The Committee may provide for a more restrictive definition of Change in Control in an Award Agreement if necessary or appropriate to comply with Code Section 409A or as the Committee deems appropriate.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Award that is subject to Code Section 409A will not be paid or settled upon a Change in Control unless the Change in Control also constitutes a “change in control event” under Code Section 409A and Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-3(i)(5).

2.8 “*Change in Control Price*” means the price per Share paid in conjunction with any transaction resulting in a Change in Control (as determined in good faith by the Committee if any part of the offered price is payable other than in cash) or, in the case of a Change in Control occurring solely by reason of events not related to a transfer of Shares, the highest Fair Market Value of a Share on any of the thirty (30) consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day before the Change in Control occurs.

2.9 “*Code*” means the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time. For purposes of this Plan, references to sections of the Code shall be deemed to include references to any applicable regulations thereunder and any successor or similar provision, as well as any applicable interpretative guidance issued related thereto.

2.10 “*Committee*” means the Compensation and Organization Committee of the Board or a subcommittee thereof, or any other committee designated by the Board to administer this Plan. The members of the Committee shall be appointed from time to time by and shall serve at the discretion of the Board. If the Committee does not exist or cannot function for any reason, the Board may take any action under the Plan that would otherwise be the responsibility of the Committee.

2.11 “*Company*” means The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, an Ohio corporation, and any successor thereto as provided in Article 19 herein.

2.12 “*Director*” means any individual who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Company.

2.13 “*Dividend Equivalent*” has the meaning set forth in Article 13.

2.14 “*Effective Date*” has the meaning set forth in Section 1.1.

2.15 “*Employee*” means any individual who performs services for and is designated as an employee of the Company, its Affiliates, and/or its Subsidiaries on the payroll records thereof. An Employee shall not include any individual during any period he or she is classified or treated by the Company, Affiliate, and/or Subsidiary as an independent contractor, a consultant, or any employee of an employment, consulting, or temporary agency or any other entity other than the Company, Affiliate, and/or Subsidiary, without regard to whether such individual is subsequently determined to have been, or is subsequently retroactively reclassified as a common-law employee of the Company, Affiliate, and/or Subsidiary during such period.

2.16 “*Exchange Act*” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time, or any successor act thereto.

2.17 “*Fair Market Value*” or “*FMV*” means a price that is based on the opening, closing, actual, high, low, or average selling prices of a Share reported on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) or other established stock exchange (or exchanges) on the applicable date, the preceding trading day, the next succeeding trading day, or an average of trading days, as determined by the Committee in its discretion. Unless the Committee determines otherwise, Fair Market Value shall be deemed to be equal to the closing price of a Share on the relevant date if it is a trading day or, if such date is not a trading day, on the next trading day. In the event Shares are not publicly traded at the time a determination of their value is required to be made hereunder (a) with respect to NQSOs, SARs and Awards that are subject to Code Section 409A, “Fair Market Value” shall mean the value as determined by the Committee through the reasonable application of a reasonable valuation method, taking into account all information material to the value of the Company, within the meaning of Code Section 409A and (b) with respect to all other Awards, the determination of “Fair Market Value” shall be made by the Committee in such manner as it deems appropriate. Such definition(s) of FMV shall be specified in each Award Agreement and may differ depending on whether FMV is in reference to the grant, exercise, vesting, settlement, or payout of an Award.

2.18 “*Full-Value Award*” means an Award other than in the form of an ISO, NQSO, or SAR, and which is settled by the issuance of Shares.

2.19 “*Full-Value Factor*” has the meaning set forth in Section 4.1(b).

2.20 “*Grant Date*” means the date an Award is granted to a Participant pursuant to the Plan.

2.21 “Grant Price” means the price established at the time of grant of a SAR pursuant to Article 7, used to determine whether there is any payment due upon exercise of the SAR.

2.22 “Incentive Stock Option” or “ISO” means an Option to purchase Shares granted under Article 6 that is designated as an Incentive Stock Option and that is intended to meet the requirements of Code Section 422, or any successor provision.

2.23 “Insider” shall mean an individual who is, on the relevant date, an officer or Director of the Company, or a more than ten percent (10%) Beneficial Owner of any class of the Company’s equity securities that is registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, as determined by the Board or Committee in accordance with Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

2.24 “Non-employee Director” means a Director who is not an Employee on the Grant Date.

2.25 “Non-employee Director Award” means any NQSO, SAR, or Full-Value Award granted to a Participant who is a Non-employee Director pursuant to such applicable terms, conditions, and limitations as the Board or Committee may establish in accordance with this Plan.

2.26 “Nonqualified Stock Option” or “NQSO” means an Option that is not intended to meet the requirements of Code Section 422, or that otherwise does not meet such requirements.

2.27 “Option” means an Incentive Stock Option or a Nonqualified Stock Option, as described in Article 6.

2.28 “Option Price” means the price at which a Share may be purchased by a Participant pursuant to the exercise of an Option.

2.29 “Other Stock-Based Award” means an equity-based or equity-related Award not otherwise described by the terms of this Plan, granted pursuant to Article 10.

2.30 “Participant” means any eligible individual as set forth in Article 5 to whom an Award is granted.

2.31 “Performance Goals” shall be established by the Committee, based on one or more of the following criteria or derivations of such criteria or such other criteria as determined by the Committee, including but not limited to the following: net earnings or net income (before or after taxes); earnings per share (basic or diluted); net sales or revenue growth; net operating profit; return measures (including, but not limited to, return on assets, capital, invested capital, investor return, equity, sales, revenue or dividend yield); cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow, free cash flow, cash flow return on equity, and cash flow return on investment); earnings before or after taxes, interest, depreciation, and/or amortization; gross or operating margins; productivity ratios; share price (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total shareholder return); expense targets; margins; operating efficiency; market share; customer satisfaction; working capital targets; economic value added or EVA(R) (net operating profit after tax minus the sum of capital multiplied by the cost of capital); developing new products and lines of revenue; reducing operating expenses; developing new markets; meeting completion schedules; developing and managing relationships with regulatory and other governmental agencies; managing cash; managing claims against the Company, including litigation; identifying and completing strategic acquisitions or joint ventures; and debt leverage and/or any other bank covenant ratio. Any Performance Goal(s) may be used to measure the performance of the Company, Subsidiary, and/or Affiliate as a whole or any business unit or joint venture of the Company, Subsidiary, and/or Affiliate or any combination thereof, as the Committee may deem appropriate, or any of the above Performance Goals as compared to the performance of a group of comparator companies, or published or special index that the Committee, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. The Committee may provide in any such Award that any evaluation of performance may include or exclude any of the following events that occurs during a Performance Period: (a) asset write-downs, (b) litigation or claim judgments or settlements, (c) the effect of changes in tax laws, accounting principles, or other laws or provisions affecting reported results, (d) any reorganization and restructuring programs, (e) unusual and infrequently occurring items as described in applicable Accounting Principles Board opinions and in management’s discussion and analysis of financial conditions and results of operations appearing in the Company’s annual report to shareholders for the applicable year, (f) acquisitions or divestitures, (g) foreign exchange gains and losses, and (h) other appropriate events. The Committee has the authority to provide for accelerated vesting of any Award based on the achievement of Performance Goals.

2.32 “Performance Period” means the period of time during which the Performance Goals must be met in order to determine the degree of payout and/or vesting with respect to an Award.

2.33 “*Performance Share*” means an Award under Article 9 herein and subject to the terms of this Plan, denominated in Shares, the value of which at the time it is payable is determined as a function of the extent to which corresponding performance criteria or Performance Goal(s), as applicable, have been achieved.

2.34 “*Performance Unit*” means an Award under Article 9 herein and subject to the terms of this Plan, denominated in units, the value of which at the time it is payable is determined as a function of the extent to which corresponding performance criteria or Performance Goals, as applicable, have been achieved.

2.35 “*Period of Restriction*” means the period when Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units are subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture (based on the passage of time, the achievement of Performance Goals, or the occurrence of other events as determined by the Committee, in its discretion), as provided in Article 8.

2.36 “*Person*” shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Section 3(a)(9) of the Exchange Act and used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d) thereof, including a “group” as defined in Section 13(d) thereof.

2.37 “*Plan*” means The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated from time to time.

2.38 “*Plan Year*” means the Company’s fiscal year.

2.39 “*Restricted Stock*” means an Award granted to a Participant pursuant to Article 8.

2.40 “*Restricted Stock Unit*” means an Award granted to a Participant pursuant to Article 8, except no Shares are actually awarded to the Participant on the Grant Date.

2.41 “*Share*” means a common share of the Company, without par value per share.

2.42 “*Stock Appreciation Right*” or “*SAR*” means an Award granted to a Participant pursuant to Article 7.

2.43 “*Subsidiary*” means any corporation or other entity, whether domestic or foreign, in which the Company has or obtains, directly or indirectly, a proprietary interest of more than fifty percent (50%) by reason of stock ownership or otherwise.

2.44 “*Termination*” or “*Terminate*” means: (a) if a Participant is an Employee, cessation of the employee-employer relationship between a Participant and the Company and all Affiliates and Subsidiaries for any reason; (b) if a Participant is a Non-employee Director, termination of the Non-employee Director’s service on the Board for any reason; and (c) if a Participant is a Third-Party Service Provider, termination of the Third-Party Service Provider’s service relationship with the Company and all Affiliates and Subsidiaries for any reason. Notwithstanding the foregoing, with respect to any Award subject to Code Section 409A, any such cessation or termination also must constitute a “separation from service” as defined under Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(h). Effective for Awards granted on or after January 20, 2010, an Award Agreement may specify a different definition of “Termination” or “Terminate,” that will apply to such Award Agreement; provided that no such different definition shall cause the term of the Award to which it relates to extend beyond the maximum possible term for such Award contemplated under the applicable provisions of this Plan and any applicable law, regulation or stock exchange rule.

2.45 “*Third-Party Service Provider*” means any consultant, agent, advisor, or independent contractor who renders services to the Company, a Subsidiary, or an Affiliate that (a) are not in connection with the offer or sale of the Company’s securities in a capital raising transaction, and (b) do not directly or indirectly promote or maintain a market for the Company’s securities.

Article 3.

Administration

3.1 *General.* The Committee shall be responsible for administering this Plan, subject to this Article 3 and the other provisions of this Plan. The Committee shall be comprised, unless otherwise determined by the Board, solely of not less than two members who shall be (i) “non-employee directors” within the meaning of Rule 16b-3(b)(3) (or any successor rule) promulgated under the Exchange Act, and (ii) “independent directors,” as determined in accordance with the independence standards established by the stock exchange on which the Shares are at the time primarily traded. The Committee may employ

attorneys, consultants, accountants, agents, and other individuals, any of whom may be an Employee, and the Committee, the Company, and its officers and Directors shall be entitled to rely upon the advice, opinions, or valuations of any such individuals. All actions taken and all interpretations and determinations made by the Committee shall be final and binding upon the Participants, the Company, and all other interested individuals. By accepting an Award under this Plan, each Participant agrees to all Committee determinations as described above.

3.2 *Authority of the Committee.* The Committee shall have full and exclusive discretionary power to interpret the terms and the intent of this Plan and any Award Agreement or other agreement or document ancillary to or in connection with this Plan, to determine eligibility for Awards and to adopt such rules, regulations, forms, instruments, and guidelines for administering this Plan as the Committee may deem necessary or proper. Such authority shall include, but not be limited to, selecting Award recipients, establishing all Award terms and conditions, including the terms and conditions set forth in Award Agreements and whether the terms of any exercise, vesting or restriction periods will be based upon the achievement of specific Performance Goals, granting Awards as an alternative to or as the form of payment for grants or rights earned or due under compensation plans or arrangements of the Company, construing any provision of the Plan or any Award Agreement, and, subject to Article 17, adopting modifications and amendments to this Plan or any Award Agreement, including without limitation, any that are necessary to comply with the laws of the countries and other jurisdictions in which the Company, its Affiliates, and/or its Subsidiaries operate.

3.3 *Delegation.* The Committee may delegate to one or more of its members or to one or more officers of the Company, and/or its Subsidiaries and Affiliates or to one or more agents or advisors such administrative duties or powers as it may deem advisable, and the Committee or any individuals to whom it has delegated duties or powers as aforesaid may employ one or more individuals to render advice with respect to any responsibility the Committee or such individuals may have under this Plan. The Committee may, by resolution, authorize one or more officers of the Company to do one or both of the following on the same basis as can the Committee: (a) designate Employees to be recipients of Awards; (b) determine the size of any such Awards; provided, however, (i) the Committee shall not delegate such responsibilities to any such officer for Awards granted to an Employee who is considered an Insider; (ii) the resolution providing such authorization sets forth the total number of Awards such officer(s) may grant; and (iii) the officer(s) shall report periodically to the Committee regarding the nature and scope of the Awards granted pursuant to the authority delegated. Notwithstanding the foregoing, awards to Non-employee Directors shall be administered and interpreted by the Board.

Article 4.

Shares Subject to this Plan and Maximum Awards

4.1 Number of Shares Available for Awards.

(a) Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 4.3 herein, the maximum number of Shares that may be issued under the Plan with respect to Awards granted on or after the Effective Date (the "Share Authorization") is the sum of: (i) two million five hundred thousand (2,500,000) Shares, plus (ii) the number of Shares that remained available for Awards under the Plan as of November 27, 2023 (1,820,961), plus (iii) the number of Shares subject to outstanding Awards under the Plan as of November 27, 2023 that terminate, expire, or are cancelled, forfeited, exchanged, or surrendered without having been exercised, vested, or paid under the Plan (not exceeding 3,576,618 Shares). The Shares available for issuance under this Plan may be authorized and unissued Shares or treasury Shares.

(b) Subject to the provisions of Section 4.2, in determining the number of Shares that remain available for issuance to Participants pursuant to Awards granted under this Plan on or after January 17, 2013, the Share Authorization shall be reduced by one Share for each Share covered by an Option or Stock Appreciation Right granted on or after January 17, 2013, and the Share Authorization shall be reduced by two Shares (the "Full Value Factor") per each Share subject to an Award, other than an Option or Stock Appreciation Right, granted on or after January 17, 2013. If a Stock Appreciation Right is settled by the issuance of Shares, the Share Authorization shall be reduced by the number of Shares covered by the Stock Appreciation Right rather than the number of Shares issued in settlement of the Stock Appreciation Right.

(c) Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 4.3, the maximum number of Shares of the Share Authorization that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of ISOs granted on or after the Effective Date, shall be four million three hundred twenty thousand nine hundred and sixty-one (4,320,961) Shares.

(d) The maximum Grant Date value of Shares subject to Awards granted to a Non-employee Director during any Plan Year, in the Participant's capacity as a Non-employee Director, shall not exceed \$500,000 in total value. For purposes of this limit, the value of such Awards shall be calculated based on the Grant Date fair value of such Awards for financial reporting purposes.

4.2 *Reallocation of Shares.* To the extent that Awards terminate by expiration, forfeiture, cancellation, or otherwise without the issuance of such Shares, are settled in cash in lieu of Shares, or are exchanged with the Committee's permission, prior to the issuance of Shares, for Awards not involving Shares, then the Shares subject to such Award shall be available again for grant under Section 4.1(a) of this Plan; *provided, however*, that the number of Shares that shall again be available shall be based on the Full Value Factor if the previous Award was not an Option or Stock Appreciation Right. If any Shares are withheld by the Company or are tendered (either actually or by attestation) by a Participant to satisfy any tax withholding obligation with respect to an Award (other than an Option or Stock Appreciation Right), then the Shares so tendered or withheld shall again be available for issuance under the Plan and correspondingly increase the total number of Shares available for issuance under Section 4.1(a) of the Plan based on the Full Value Factor. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 4.2, the following Shares will not again become available for issuance under the Plan: (i) any Shares which would have been issued upon any exercise of an Option but for the fact that the exercise price was paid by a "net exercise" or any Shares tendered (either actually or by attestation) by a Participant in payment of the exercise price of an Option; (ii) any Shares withheld by the Company or Shares tendered (either actually or by attestation) by a Participant to satisfy any tax withholding obligation with respect to an Option or a Stock Appreciation Right (but not other Awards); (iii) Shares covered by a Stock Appreciation Right that are not issued in connection with the stock settlement upon its exercise; or (iv) Shares that are repurchased by the Company using Option exercise proceeds.

4.3 *Adjustments in Authorized Shares.* In the event of any corporate event or transaction (including, but not limited to, a change in the Shares of the Company or the capitalization of the Company) such as a merger, consolidation, reorganization, recapitalization, separation, partial or complete liquidation, stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, split up, spin-off, or other distribution of stock or property of the Company, combination of Shares, exchange of Shares, dividend in kind, or other like change in capital structure, number of outstanding Shares or distribution (other than normal cash dividends) to shareholders of the Company, or any similar corporate event or transaction, the Committee, in its sole discretion, in order to prevent dilution or enlargement of Participants' rights under this Plan, shall substitute or adjust, as applicable, the number and kind of Shares that may be issued under this Plan or under particular forms of Awards, the Full Value Factor set forth in Section 4.1, the number and kind of Shares subject to outstanding Awards, the Option Price or Grant Price applicable to outstanding Awards, and other value determinations applicable to outstanding Awards.

The Committee, in its sole discretion, may also make appropriate adjustments in the terms of any Awards under this Plan to reflect such changes or distributions and to modify any other terms of outstanding Awards, including modifications of Performance Goals and changes in the length of applicable Performance Periods. The determination of the Committee as to the foregoing adjustments, if any, shall be conclusive and binding on Participants under this Plan.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 4.3, an adjustment to an Option or SAR shall be made only to the extent such adjustment complies with the requirements of Code Section 409A.

Subject to the provisions of Article 17 and notwithstanding anything else herein to the contrary, without affecting the number of Shares reserved or available hereunder, the Committee may authorize the issuance or assumption of benefits under this Plan in connection with any merger, consolidation, acquisition of property or stock, or reorganization upon such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate (including, but not limited to, a conversion of equity awards into Awards under this Plan in a manner consistent with paragraph 53 of FASB Interpretation No. 44), subject to compliance with the rules under Code Sections 409A, 422 and 424, as and where applicable.

Article 5.

Eligibility and Participation

5.1 *Eligibility.* Individuals eligible to participate in this Plan include all Employees, Directors, and Third-Party Service Providers.

5.2 *Actual Participation.* Subject to the provisions of this Plan, the Committee may, from time to time, select from all eligible individuals, those individuals to whom Awards shall be granted and shall determine, in its sole discretion, the nature of, any and all terms permissible by law, and the amount of, each Award.

Article 6.

Stock Options

6.1 *Grant of Options.* Subject to the terms and provisions of this Plan, Options may be granted to Participants in such number, and upon such terms, and at any time and from time to time as shall be determined by the Committee, in its sole discretion; provided that ISOs may be granted only to eligible Employees of the Company or of any parent or subsidiary corporation (as permitted under Code Sections 422 and 424).

6.2 *Award Agreement.* Each Option grant shall be evidenced by an Award Agreement that shall specify the Option Price, the maximum duration of the Option, the number of Shares to which the Option pertains, the conditions upon which the Option shall become vested and exercisable, including, without limitation, whether Options will vest based upon the achievement of specific Performance Goals, and such other provisions as the Committee shall determine which are not inconsistent with the terms of this Plan. The Award Agreement also shall specify whether the Option is intended to be an ISO or a NQSO.

6.3 *Option Price.* The Option Price for each grant of an Option under this Plan shall be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion and shall be specified in the Award Agreement; provided, however, the Option Price must be at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the FMV of the Shares as determined on the Grant Date; provided, further, however, that the Option Price must be at least equal to one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the FMV of a Share on the Grant Date with respect to any ISO issued to a Participant who, on the Grant Date, owns (as defined in Code Section 424(d)) stock possessing more than ten percent (10%) of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or of its subsidiary corporation (as defined in Code Section 424(f)) (a "10% Shareholder").

6.4 *Term of Options.* Each Option granted to a Participant shall expire at such time as the Committee shall determine at the time of grant; provided, however, no Option shall be exercisable later than the day before the tenth (10th) anniversary of the Grant Date; provided, further, however, that no ISO granted to a 10% Shareholder shall be exercisable later than the day before the fifth (5th) anniversary of its Grant Date.

6.5 *Exercise of Options.* Options granted under this Article 6 shall be exercisable at such times and be subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Committee shall in each instance approve, which terms and restrictions need not be the same for each grant or for each Participant. Notwithstanding anything in this Plan to the contrary, to the extent that the aggregate FMV of the Shares (determined as of the Grant Date of the applicable ISO) with respect to which ISOs are exercisable for the first time by a Participant during any calendar year (under all plans of the Company and its subsidiary corporations (as defined in Code Section 424(f)) exceeds \$100,000, such Options shall be treated as Nonqualified Stock Options.

6.6 *Payment.* Options granted under this Article 6 shall be exercised by the delivery of a notice of exercise to the Company or an agent designated by the Company in a form specified or accepted by the Committee, or by complying with any alternative procedures which may be authorized by the Committee, setting forth the number of Shares with respect to which the Option is to be exercised, accompanied by full payment for the Shares.

A condition of the issuance of the Shares as to which an Option shall be exercised shall be the payment of the Option Price. The Option Price of any Option shall be payable to the Company in full either: (a) in cash or its equivalent; (b) by tendering (either by actual delivery or attestation) previously acquired Shares having an aggregate Fair Market Value at the time of exercise equal to the Option Price (provided that except as otherwise determined by the Committee, the Shares that are tendered must have been held by the Participant for at least six (6) months (or such other period, if any, as the Committee may permit) prior to their tender to satisfy the Option Price if acquired under this Plan or any other compensation plan maintained by the Company or have been purchased on the open market); (c) by a cashless (broker-assisted) exercise; (d) by a combination of (a), (b) and/or (c); or (e) any other method approved or accepted by the Committee in its sole discretion, including by the withholding of Shares subject to the exercisable Option, which have a Fair Market Value on the date of exercise equal to the Option Price, if permitted by the Committee.

Subject to any governing rules or regulations, as soon as practicable after receipt of written notification of exercise and full payment (including satisfaction of any applicable tax withholding), the Company shall deliver to the Participant evidence of book entry Shares, or upon the Participant's request, Share certificates in an appropriate amount based upon the number of Shares purchased under the Option(s).

Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, all payments under all of the methods indicated above shall be paid in United States dollars.

6.7 *Restrictions on Share Transferability.* The Committee may impose such restrictions on any Shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of an Option granted under this Article 6 as it may deem advisable, including, without limitation, minimum holding period requirements, restrictions under applicable federal securities laws, under the requirements of any stock exchange or market upon which such Shares are then listed and/or traded, or under any blue sky or state securities laws applicable to such Shares.

6.8 *Termination of Employment or Service.* Each Participant's Award Agreement shall set forth the extent to which the Participant shall have the right to exercise the Option following the Participant's Termination. Such provisions shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Committee, shall be included in the Award Agreement entered into with each Participant, need not be uniform among all Options issued pursuant to this Article 6, and may reflect distinctions based on the reasons for Termination.

6.9 *Notification of Disqualifying Disposition.* If any Participant shall make any disposition of Shares issued pursuant to the exercise of an ISO under the circumstances described in Code Section 421(b) (relating to certain disqualifying dispositions), such Participant shall notify the Company of such disposition within ten (10) calendar days thereof.

Article 7.

Stock Appreciation Rights

7.1 *Grant of SARs.* Subject to the terms and conditions of this Plan, SARs may be granted to Participants at any time and from time to time as shall be determined by the Committee.

Subject to the terms and conditions of this Plan, the Committee shall have complete discretion in determining the number of SARs granted to each Participant and, consistent with the provisions of this Plan, in determining the terms and conditions pertaining to such SARs, including, without limitation, whether SARs will vest based upon the achievement of specific Performance Goals.

The Grant Price for each grant of a SAR shall be determined by the Committee and shall be specified in the Award Agreement; provided, however, the Grant Price on the Grant Date must be at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the FMV of the Shares as determined on the Grant Date.

7.2 *SAR Agreement.* Each SAR Award shall be evidenced by an Award Agreement that shall specify the Grant Price, the term of the SAR, and such other provisions as the Committee shall determine.

7.3 *Term of SAR.* The term of a SAR granted under this Plan shall be determined by the Committee, in its sole discretion, and no SAR shall be exercisable later than the tenth (10th) anniversary date of its Grant Date.

7.4 *Exercise of SARs.* SARs may be exercised upon whatever terms and conditions the Committee, in its sole discretion, imposes.

7.5 *Settlement of SARs.* Upon the exercise of a SAR, a Participant shall be entitled to receive payment from the Company in an amount determined by multiplying:

- (a) The excess of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the date of exercise over the Grant Price; by
- (b) The number of Shares with respect to which the SAR is exercised.

At the discretion of the Committee, the payment upon SAR exercise may be in cash, Shares, or any combination thereof, or in any other manner approved by the Committee in its sole discretion. The Committee's determination regarding the form of SAR payout may be set forth in the Award Agreement pertaining to the grant of the SAR.

7.6 *Termination of Employment or Service.* Each Award Agreement shall set forth the extent to which the Participant shall have the right to exercise the SAR following the Participant's Termination. Such provisions shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Committee, shall be included in the Award Agreement entered into with Participants, need not be uniform among all SARs issued pursuant to this Plan, and may reflect distinctions based on the reasons for Termination.

7.7 *Other Restrictions.* The Committee shall impose such other conditions and/or restrictions on any Shares received upon exercise of a SAR granted pursuant to this Plan as it may deem advisable or desirable. These restrictions may include, but shall not be limited to, a requirement that the Participant hold the Shares received upon exercise of a SAR for a specified period of time.

Article 8.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units

8.1 *Grant of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units.* Subject to the terms and provisions of this Plan or an Award Agreement, the Committee, at any time and from time to time, may grant Shares of Restricted Stock and/or Restricted Stock Units to Participants in such amounts as the Committee shall determine. Restricted Stock Units shall be similar to Restricted Stock except that no Shares are actually awarded to the Participant on the Grant Date.

8.2 *Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Unit Agreement.* Each Restricted Stock and/or Restricted Stock Unit grant shall be evidenced by an Award Agreement that shall specify the Period(s) of Restriction, the number of Shares of Restricted Stock or the number of Restricted Stock Units granted, and such other provisions as the Committee shall determine.

8.3 *Other Restrictions.* The Committee shall impose such other conditions and/or restrictions on any Shares of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units granted pursuant to this Plan as it may deem advisable, including, without limitation, a requirement that Participants pay a stipulated purchase price for each Share of Restricted Stock or each Restricted Stock Unit, whether Shares of Restricted Stock and/or Restricted Stock Units will vest based upon the achievement of specific Performance Goals, time-based restrictions on vesting following the attainment of the Performance Goals, time-based restrictions, and/or restrictions under applicable laws or under the requirements of any stock exchange or market upon which such Shares are listed or traded, or holding requirements or sale restrictions placed on the Shares by the Company upon vesting of such Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units.

To the extent deemed appropriate by the Committee, the Company may retain the certificates representing Shares of Restricted Stock in the Company's possession until such time as all conditions and/or restrictions applicable to such Shares have been satisfied or lapse.

Except as otherwise provided in this Article 8, Shares of Restricted Stock covered by each Restricted Stock Award shall become freely transferable by the Participant after all conditions and restrictions applicable to such Shares have been satisfied or lapse (including satisfaction of any applicable tax withholding obligations), and Restricted Stock Units shall be paid in cash, Shares, or a combination of cash and Shares as the Committee, in its sole discretion shall determine.

8.4 *Certificate Legend.* In addition to any legends placed on certificates pursuant to Section 8.3, each certificate representing Shares of Restricted Stock granted pursuant to this Plan may bear a legend such as the following or as otherwise determined by the Committee in its sole discretion:

The sale or transfer of the common shares of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company represented by this certificate, whether voluntary, involuntary, or by operation of law, is subject to certain restrictions on transfer as set forth in The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan, and in the associated Award Agreement. A copy of this Plan and such Award Agreement will be provided by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, without charge, within five (5) days after receipt of a written request therefor.

8.5 *Voting Rights.* Unless otherwise determined by the Committee and set forth in a Participant's Award Agreement, to the extent permitted or required by law, as determined by the Committee, Participants holding Shares of Restricted Stock granted hereunder may be granted the right to exercise full voting rights with respect to those Shares during the Period of Restriction. A Participant shall have no voting rights with respect to any Restricted Stock Units granted hereunder.

8.6 *Termination of Employment or Service.* Each Award Agreement shall set forth the extent to which the Participant shall have the right to retain Restricted Stock and/or Restricted Stock Units following the Participant's Termination. Such provisions shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Committee, shall be included in the Award Agreement entered into with each Participant, need not be uniform among all Shares of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units issued pursuant to this Plan, and may reflect distinctions based on the reasons for Termination.

8.7 *Section 83(b) Election.* The Committee may provide in an Award Agreement that the Award of Restricted Stock is conditioned upon the Participant making or refraining from making an election with respect to the Award under Code Section 83(b). If a Participant makes an election pursuant to Code Section 83(b) concerning a Restricted Stock Award, the Participant shall be required to file promptly a copy of such election with the Company.

Article 9.

Performance Units/Performance Shares

9.1 *Grant of Performance Units/Performance Shares.* Subject to the terms and provisions of this Plan, the Committee, at any time and from time to time, may grant Performance Units and/or Performance Shares to Participants in such amounts and upon such terms as the Committee shall determine.

9.2 *Value of Performance Units/Performance Shares.* Each Performance Unit shall have an initial value that is established by the Committee at the Grant Date. Each Performance Share shall have an initial value equal to the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Grant Date. The Committee shall set Performance Goals in its discretion which, depending on the extent to which they are met, will determine the value and/or number of Performance Units/Performance Shares that will be paid out to the Participant.

9.3 *Earning of Performance Units/Performance Shares.* Subject to the terms of this Plan, after the applicable Performance Period has ended (unless otherwise specified in the Award Agreement), the holder of Performance Units/Performance Shares shall be entitled to receive payout on the value and number of Performance Units/Performance Shares earned by the Participant over the Performance Period, to be determined as a function of the extent to which the corresponding Performance Goals have been achieved.

9.4 *Form and Timing of Payment of Performance Units/Performance Shares.* Payment of earned Performance Units/Performance Shares shall be as determined by the Committee and as evidenced in the Award Agreement. Subject to the terms of this Plan, the Committee, in its sole discretion, may pay earned Performance Units/Performance Shares in the form of cash or in Shares (or in a combination thereof) equal to the value of the earned Performance Units/Performance Shares at the close of the applicable Performance Period, or as soon as practicable after the end of the Performance Period (unless otherwise specified in the Award Agreement). Any Shares may be granted subject to any restrictions deemed appropriate by the Committee. The determination of the Committee with respect to the form of payout of such Awards shall be set forth in the Award Agreement pertaining to the grant of the Award.

9.5 *Termination of Employment or Service.* Each Award Agreement shall set forth the extent to which the Participant shall have the right to retain Performance Units and/or Performance Shares following the Participant's Termination. Such provisions shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Committee, shall be included in the Award Agreement entered into with each Participant, need not be uniform among all Awards of Performance Units or Performance Shares issued pursuant to this Plan, and may reflect distinctions based on the reasons for Termination.

9.6 Performance Units and Performance Shares shall be transferred or paid to the Participant as determined by the Committee in the applicable Award Agreement, consistent with the requirements of Code Section 409A.

Article 10.

Other Stock-Based Awards

10.1 *Other Stock-Based Awards.* The Committee may grant other types of equity-based or equity-related Awards not otherwise described by the terms of this Plan (including the grant or offer for sale of unrestricted Shares) in such amounts and subject to such terms and conditions, as the Committee shall determine. Such Awards may involve the transfer of actual Shares to Participants, or payment in cash or otherwise of amounts based on the value of Shares and may include, without limitation, Awards designed to comply with or take advantage of the applicable local laws of jurisdictions other than the United States.

10.2 *Value of Other Stock-Based Awards.* Each Other Stock-Based Award shall be expressed in terms of Shares or units based on Shares, as determined by the Committee. The Committee may establish Performance Goals in its discretion applicable to Other Stock-Based Awards. If the Committee exercises its discretion to establish Performance Goals, the number and/or value of Other Stock-Based Awards that will be paid out to the Participant will depend on the extent to which the Performance Goals are met.

10.3 *Payment of Other Stock-Based Awards.* Payment, if any, with respect to an Other Stock-Based Award shall be made in accordance with the terms of the Award, in cash or Shares as the Committee determines and as specified in the Award Agreement.

10.4 *Termination of Employment or Service.* The Committee shall determine the extent to which the Participant shall have the right to receive Other Stock-Based Awards following the Participant's Termination. Such provisions shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Committee, shall be included in an agreement entered into with each Participant, need not be uniform among all Awards of Other Stock-Based Awards issued pursuant to the Plan, and may reflect distinctions based on the reasons for Termination.

Article 11.

Transferability of Awards

11.1 *Transferability.* Except as provided in Section 11.2 below, during a Participant's lifetime, his or her Awards shall be exercisable only by the Participant or the Participant's legal representative. Awards shall not be transferable other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution; no Awards shall be subject, in whole or in part, to attachment, execution, or levy of any kind; and any purported transfer in violation hereof shall be null and void. The Committee may establish such procedures as it deems appropriate for a Participant to designate a beneficiary to whom any amounts payable or Shares issuable in the event of, or following, the Participant's death, may be provided.

11.2 *Committee Action.* The Committee may, in its discretion, determine that notwithstanding Section 11.1, any or all Awards (other than ISOs) shall be transferable to and exercisable by such transferees, and subject to such terms and conditions, as the Committee may deem appropriate; provided, however, no Award may be transferred for value (as defined in the General Instructions to Form S-8).

Article 12.

Non-employee Director Awards

The Board shall determine all Awards to Non-employee Directors. The terms and conditions of any grant to any such Non-employee Director shall be set forth in an Award Agreement.

Article 13.

Dividends or Dividend Equivalents

Any Participant selected by the Committee may be granted dividends or Dividend Equivalents based on the dividends declared on Shares that are subject to any Award (other than Options or SARs), to be credited as of dividend payment dates, during the period between the Grant Date and the date the Award becomes payable or as otherwise provided in an Award Agreement, as determined by the Committee; provided, however, that dividends or Dividend Equivalents on Shares shall be payable only when and to the extent that the underlying Awards vest and become payable. Such dividends and Dividend Equivalents shall be converted to cash or additional Shares by such formula and at such time and subject to such limitations as may be determined by the Committee.

Article 14.

Beneficiary Designation

Each Participant under this Plan may, from time to time, name any beneficiary or beneficiaries (who may be named contingently or successively) to whom any benefit under this Plan is to be paid in case of his death before he receives any or all of such benefit. Each such designation shall revoke all prior designations by the same Participant, shall be in a form prescribed by the Committee, and will be effective only when filed by the Participant in writing with the Company during the Participant's lifetime. In the absence of any such beneficiary designation, benefits remaining unpaid or rights remaining unexercised at the Participant's death shall be paid to or exercised by the Participant's spouse, executor, administrator, or legal representative in that order.

Article 15.

Rights of Participants

15.1 *Employment or Service.* Nothing in this Plan or an Award Agreement shall interfere with or limit in any way the right of the Company, its Affiliates, and/or its Subsidiaries, to Terminate any Participant at any time or for any reason not prohibited by law, nor confer upon any Participant any right to continue his employment or service as a Director or Third-Party Service Provider for any specified period of time.

Neither an Award nor any benefits arising under this Plan shall constitute an employment contract with the Company, its Affiliates, and/or its Subsidiaries and, accordingly, subject to Articles 3 and 17, this Plan and the benefits hereunder may be terminated at any time in the sole and exclusive discretion of the Committee without giving rise to any liability on the part of the Company, its Affiliates, and/or its Subsidiaries.

15.2 *Participation.* No individual shall have the right to be selected to receive an Award under this Plan, or, having been so selected, to be selected to receive a future Award.

15.3 *Rights as a Shareholder.* Except as otherwise provided herein, a Participant shall have none of the rights of a shareholder with respect to Shares covered by any Award until the Participant becomes the record holder of such Shares.

Article 16.

Change in Control

16.1 *Accelerated Vesting and Settlement.* Subject to Section 16.2, on the date of any Change in Control:

(a) Each Option and SAR (other than Options and SARs of Non-employee Directors) outstanding on the date of a Change in Control (whether or not exercisable) will be cancelled in exchange (i) for cash equal to the excess of the Change in Control Price over the Option Price or Grant Price, as applicable, associated with the cancelled Option or SAR or, (ii) at the Committee's discretion, for whole Shares with a Fair Market Value equal to the excess of the Change in Control Price over the Option Price or Grant Price, as applicable, associated with the cancelled Option or SAR and the Fair Market Value of any fractional Share will be distributed in cash. However, the Committee, in its sole discretion, may offer the holders of the Options or SARs to be cancelled a reasonable opportunity (not longer than 15 days beginning on the date of the Change in Control) to exercise all their outstanding Options and SARs (whether or not otherwise then exercisable);

(b) Except as otherwise provided in an Award Agreement, all performance goals associated with Awards for which Performance Goals have been established will be deemed to have been met on the date of the Change in Control, all Performance Periods accelerated to the date of the Change in Control and all outstanding Awards for which Performance Goals have been established (including those subject to the acceleration described in this subsection) will be distributed in a single lump sum cash payment within thirty (30) days following such Change in Control; and

(c) All other then-outstanding Awards whose exercisability or vesting depends merely on the satisfaction of a service obligation by a Participant to the Company, Subsidiary, or Affiliate ("Service Award") shall vest in full and be free of restrictions related to the vesting of such Awards. All Service Awards whose vesting is so accelerated will be distributed, if not already held by a Participant and to the extent applicable, (i) in a single lump-sum

cash payment within thirty (30) days following such Change in Control based on the Change in Control Price or, (ii) at the Committee's discretion, in the form of whole Shares based on the Change in Control Price.

16.2 *Alternative Awards.* Section 16.1 will not apply to the extent that the Committee reasonably concludes in good faith before the Change in Control occurs that Awards will be honored or assumed, or new rights will be substituted (collectively, "Alternative Awards"), by the Employee's employer (or the parent or a subsidiary of that employer), or (if the Company is the surviving company) that the Awards in effect immediately prior to the Change in Control shall continue without change following the Change in Control ("Continued Award"), provided that any Alternative Award or Continued Award must, as applicable:

(a) Be based on stock that is (or, within 60 days of the Change in Control, will be) traded on an established securities market;

(b) Provide the Employee with the rights and entitlements substantially equivalent to or better than the rights, terms and conditions of each Award for which it is substituted, including an identical or better exercise or vesting schedule and identical or, in the case of an Award that is not subject to Code Section 409A, better timing and methods of payment;

(c) Have substantially equivalent economic value to the Award (determined at the time of the Change in Control) for which it is substituted; and

(d) Provide that, if the Employee is involuntarily Terminated without Cause or the Employee constructively Terminates within twenty-four (24) months following the Change in Control, any conditions on the Employee's rights under, or any restrictions on transfer or exercisability applicable to, each Alternative Award or Continued Award will be waived or lapse. For purposes of this section, a constructive Termination means a Termination by an Employee following a material reduction in the Employee's compensation or job responsibilities (when compared to the Employee's compensation and job responsibilities on the date of the Change in Control) or the relocation of the Employee's principal place of employment to a location at least fifty (50) miles from his or her principal place of employment on the date of the Change in Control (or other location to which the Employee has been reassigned with his or her written consent), in each case without the Employee's written consent.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, no Alternative Award shall be made with respect to an Option or SAR if it would cause the Option or SAR to fail to comply with the requirements of Code Section 409A.

16.3 *Non-employee Directors' Awards.* Upon a Change in Control, each outstanding:

(a) Option or SAR held by a Non-employee Director will be cancelled unless (i) the Shares continues to be traded on an established securities market after the Change in Control or (ii) the Non-employee Director continues to be a Board member after the Change in Control. In the situations just described, the Options or SARs held by a Non-employee Director will be unaffected by a Change in Control. Any Options and SARs held by a Non-employee Director to be cancelled under the next preceding sentence will be exchanged (iii) for cash equal to the excess of the Change in Control Price over the Option Price or Grant Price, as applicable, associated with the cancelled Option or SAR held by a Non-employee Director or, (iv) at the Board's discretion, for whole Shares with a Fair Market Value equal to the excess of the Change in Control Price over the Option Price or Grant Price, as applicable, associated with the cancelled Option or SAR held by a Non-employee Director and the Fair Market Value of any fractional Share will be distributed in cash. However, the Board, in its sole discretion, may offer Non-employee Directors holding Options or SARs to be cancelled a reasonable opportunity (not longer than 15 days beginning on the date of the Change in Control) to exercise all their outstanding Options and SARs (whether or not otherwise then exercisable).

(b) Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Unit held by a Non-employee Director will be settled within thirty (30) days following such Change in Control for a lump sum cash payment equal to the Change in Control Price.

(c) All other types of Awards held by a Non-employee Director will be settled within thirty (30) days following such Change in Control for a lump sum cash payment equal to the Change in Control Price less any amount the Non-employee Director would be required to pay in order for the Award to be exercised or settled, other than any such amount related to taxes.

Article 17.

Amendment, Modification, Suspension, and Termination

17.1 *Amendment, Modification, Suspension, and Termination.* Subject to Section 17.3, the Committee may, at any time and from time to time, alter, amend, modify, suspend, or terminate this Plan and any Award Agreement in whole or in part; provided, however, that except in connection with a corporate transaction involving the Company (including, without limitation, any stock dividend, stock split, extraordinary cash dividend, recapitalization, reorganization, merger, consolidation, split-up, spin-off, combination, or exchange of Shares), the Company shall not, without the prior approval of the Company's shareholders, (i) amend the terms of outstanding Options or SARs to reduce the exercise price of such outstanding Options or SARs, (ii) cancel outstanding Options or SARs in exchange for Options or SARs with an exercise price that is less than the exercise price of the original Options or SARs, or (iii) cancel outstanding Options or SARs with an exercise price above the current stock price in exchange for cash or other securities. No material amendment of this Plan shall be made without shareholder approval if shareholder approval is required by law, regulation, or stock exchange rule.

17.2 *Adjustment of Awards Upon the Occurrence of Certain Unusual and Infrequently Occurring Events.* The Committee may make adjustments in the terms and conditions of, and the criteria included in, Awards in recognition of unusual or infrequently occurring events (including, without limitation, the events described in Section 4.3 hereof) affecting the Company or the financial statements of the Company or of changes in applicable laws, regulations, or accounting principles, whenever the Committee determines that such adjustments are appropriate in order to prevent unintended dilution or enlargement of the benefits or potential benefits intended to be made available under this Plan. The determination of the Committee as to the foregoing adjustments, if any, shall be conclusive and binding on Participants under this Plan. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 17.2, an adjustment to an Option or SAR shall be made only to the extent such adjustment complies with the requirements of Code Section 409A.

17.3 *Awards Previously Granted.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan to the contrary (other than Section 17.4), no termination, amendment, suspension, or modification of this Plan or an Award Agreement shall adversely affect in any material way any Award previously granted under this Plan, without the written consent of the Participant holding such Award.

17.4 *Amendment to Conform to Law.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan to the contrary, the Board may amend the Plan or an Award Agreement, to take effect retroactively or otherwise, as deemed necessary or advisable for the purpose of conforming the Plan or an Award Agreement to any present or future law relating to plans of this or similar nature (including, but not limited to, Code Section 409A), and to the administrative regulations and rulings promulgated thereunder. By accepting an Award under this Plan, each Participant agrees to any amendment made pursuant to this Section 17.4 to any Award granted under the Plan without further consideration or action.

Article 18.

Tax Withholding

The Company has the right to withhold from any payment of cash or Shares to a Participant or other person under the Plan an amount sufficient to cover any required withholding taxes, including the Participant's social security and Medicare taxes (FICA) and federal, state, local income tax or such other applicable taxes ("Taxes") with respect to an Award. The Company may require the payment of any Taxes before issuing any Shares pursuant to an Award. The Committee may, if it deems appropriate in the case of a Participant, withhold such Taxes through a reduction of the number of Shares issued to such Participant, or allow the Participant to elect to cover all or any part of such withholding for Taxes, through a reduction of the number of Shares issued to the Participant or a subsequent return to the Company of Shares held by the Participant, in each case valued in the same manner as used in computing the withholding taxes under the applicable laws.

Article 19.

Successors

All obligations of the Company under this Plan with respect to Awards granted hereunder shall be binding on any successor to the Company, whether the existence of such successor is the result of a direct or indirect purchase, merger, consolidation, or otherwise, of all or substantially all of the business and/or assets of the Company.

Article 20.

General Provisions

20.1 *Forfeiture Events.*

(a) The Committee may specify in an Award Agreement that the Participant's rights, payments, and benefits with respect to an Award shall be subject to reduction, cancellation, forfeiture, or recoupment upon the occurrence of certain specified events, in addition to any otherwise applicable vesting or performance conditions of an Award. Such events may include, but shall not be limited to, Termination for Cause, termination of the Participant's provision of services to the Company, Affiliate, and/or Subsidiary, violation of material Company, Affiliate, and/or Subsidiary policies, breach of noncompetition, confidentiality, or other restrictive covenants that may apply to the Participant, or other conduct by the Participant that is detrimental to the business or reputation of the Company, its Affiliates, and/or its Subsidiaries.

(b) If the Company is required to prepare an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance of the Company, as a result of misconduct, with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws, if the Participant knowingly or grossly negligently engaged in the misconduct, or knowingly or grossly negligently failed to prevent the misconduct, or if the Participant is one of the individuals subject to automatic forfeiture under Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the Participant shall reimburse the Company the amount of any payment in settlement of an Award earned or accrued during the twelve (12)-month period following the first public issuance or filing with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (whichever first occurs) of the financial document embodying such financial reporting requirement.

20.2 *Legend.* The certificates for Shares may include any legend which the Committee deems appropriate to reflect any restrictions on transfer of such Shares.

20.3 *Gender and Number.* Except where otherwise indicated by the context, any masculine term used herein also shall include the feminine, the plural shall include the singular, and the singular shall include the plural.

20.4 *Severability.* In the event any provision of this Plan shall be held illegal or invalid for any reason, the illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining parts of this Plan, and this Plan shall be construed and enforced as if the illegal or invalid provision had not been included.

20.5 *Requirements of Law.* The granting of Awards and the issuance of Shares under this Plan shall be subject to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and to such approvals by any governmental agencies or stock exchange as may be required.

20.6 *Delivery of Title.* The Company shall have no obligation to issue or deliver evidence of title for Shares issued under this Plan prior to:

(a) Obtaining any approvals from governmental agencies that the Company determines are necessary; and

(b) Completion of any registration or other qualification of the Shares under any applicable national or foreign law or ruling of any governmental body that the Company determines to be necessary.

20.7 *Inability to Obtain Authority.* The inability of the Company to obtain authority from any regulatory body having jurisdiction, which authority is deemed by the Company's counsel to be necessary to the lawful issuance and sale of any Shares hereunder, shall relieve the Company of any liability in respect of the failure to issue or sell such Shares as to which such requisite authority shall not have been obtained.

20.8 *Investment Representations.* The Committee may require any individual receiving Shares pursuant to an Award under this Plan to represent and warrant in writing that the individual is acquiring the Shares for investment and without any present intention to sell or distribute such Shares.

20.9 *Employees Based Outside of the United States.* Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, in order to comply with the laws in other countries in which the Company, its Affiliates, and/or its Subsidiaries operate or have

Employees, Directors, or Third-Party Service Providers, the Committee, in its sole discretion, shall have the power and authority to:

- (a) Determine which Affiliates and Subsidiaries shall be covered by this Plan;
- (b) Determine which Employees, Directors, and/or Third-Party Service Providers outside the United States are eligible to participate in this Plan;
- (c) Modify the terms and conditions of any Award granted to Employees and/or Third-Party Service Providers outside the United States to comply with applicable foreign laws;
- (d) Establish subplans and modify exercise procedures and other terms and procedures, to the extent such actions may be necessary or advisable. Any subplans and modifications to Plan terms and procedures established under this Section 20.9 by the Committee shall be attached to this Plan document as appendices; and
- (e) Take any action, before or after an Award is made, that it deems advisable to obtain approval or comply with any necessary local government regulatory exemptions or approvals.

Notwithstanding the above, the Committee may not take any actions hereunder, and no Awards shall be granted, that would violate applicable law.

20.10 *Uncertificated Shares.* To the extent that this Plan provides for issuance of certificates to reflect the transfer of Shares, the transfer of such Shares may be effected on a noncertificated basis, to the extent not prohibited by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange.

20.11 *Unfunded Plan.* Participants shall have no right, title, or interest whatsoever in or to any investments that the Company, and/or its Subsidiaries, and/or its Affiliates may make to aid it in meeting its obligations under this Plan. Nothing contained in this Plan, and no action taken pursuant to its provisions, shall create or be construed to create a trust of any kind, or a fiduciary relationship between the Company and any Participant, beneficiary, legal representative, or any other individual. To the extent that any individual acquires a right to receive payments from the Company, its Subsidiaries, and/or its Affiliates under this Plan, such right shall be no greater than the right of an unsecured general creditor of the Company, a Subsidiary, or an Affiliate, as the case may be. All payments to be made hereunder shall be paid from the general funds of the Company, a Subsidiary, or an Affiliate, as the case may be and no special or separate fund shall be established and no segregation of assets shall be made to assure payment of such amounts except as expressly set forth in this Plan.

20.12 *No Fractional Shares.* No fractional Shares shall be issued or delivered pursuant to this Plan or any Award. The Committee shall determine whether cash, Awards, or other property shall be issued or paid in lieu of fractional Shares or whether such fractional Shares or any rights thereto shall be forfeited or otherwise eliminated.

20.13 *Retirement and Welfare Plans.* Neither Awards made under this Plan nor Shares or cash paid pursuant to such Awards may be included as “compensation” for purposes of computing the benefits payable to any Participant under the Company’s or any Subsidiary’s or Affiliate’s retirement plans (both qualified and non-qualified) or welfare benefit plans unless such other plan expressly provides that such compensation shall be taken into account in computing a Participant’s benefit.

20.14 *Deferred Compensation.* This Plan is intended to comply with the requirements of Code Section 409A, to the extent applicable. All Awards shall be construed and administered such that the Award either (i) qualifies for an exemption from the requirements of Code Section 409A or (ii) satisfies the requirements of Code Section 409A. If an Award is subject to Code Section 409A, unless the Agreement specifically provides otherwise: (i) distributions shall only be made in a manner and upon an event permitted under Code Section 409A, (ii) payments to be made upon a termination of employment shall only be made upon a “separation from service” under Code Section 409A, (iii) payments to be made upon a Change in Control shall only be made upon a “change of control event” under Code Section 409A, (iv) each payment shall be treated as a separate payment for purposes of Code Section 409A, and (v) in no event shall a Participant, directly or indirectly, designate the calendar year in which a distribution is made except in accordance with Code Section 409A. Any Award granted under this Plan that is subject to Code Section 409A and that is to be distributed to a “specified employee” (as defined below) upon Termination shall be administered so that any distribution with respect to such Award shall be postponed for six months following the date of the Participant’s Termination, if required by Code Section 409A. If a distribution is delayed pursuant to Code Section 409A, the distribution shall be paid within 30 days after the end of the six-month period. If the Participant dies during such six-month period, any postponed amounts shall be paid within 90 days of the Participant’s death. The determination of “specified employees,” including the number and identity of persons considered “specified employees” and

the identification date, shall be made by the Committee or its delegate each year in accordance with Code Section 416(i) and the “specified employee” requirements of Code Section 409A. In no event shall the Company have any responsibility or liability if any Award does not meet the applicable requirements of Code Section 409A. Although the Company intends to administer the Plan to prevent taxation under Code Section 409A, the Company does not represent or warrant that the Plan or any Award complies with any provision of federal, state, local or other tax law.

20.15 *Company Policies.* All Awards granted under the Plan shall be subject to any applicable Company clawback or recoupment policies, share trading policies and other policies that may be implemented by the Company from time to time.

20.16 *Nonexclusivity of this Plan.* The adoption of this Plan shall not be construed as creating any limitations on the power of the Board or Committee to adopt such other compensation arrangements as it may deem desirable for any Participant.

20.17 *No Constraint on Corporate Action.* Nothing in this Plan shall be construed to: (i) limit, impair, or otherwise affect the Company’s or a Subsidiary’s or an Affiliate’s right or power to make adjustments, reclassifications, reorganizations, or changes of its capital or business structure, or to merge or consolidate, or dissolve, liquidate, sell, or transfer all or any part of its business or assets; or, (ii) limit the right or power of the Company or a Subsidiary or an Affiliate to take any action which such entity deems to be necessary or appropriate.

20.18 *Governing Law.* The Plan and each Award Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio, excluding any conflicts or choice of law rule or principle that might otherwise refer construction or interpretation of this Plan to the substantive law of another jurisdiction. Unless otherwise provided in the Award Agreement, recipients of an Award under this Plan are deemed to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the federal or state courts of Ohio, to resolve any and all issues that may arise out of or relate to this Plan or any related Award Agreement.

20.19 *Indemnification.* Subject to requirements of Ohio law, each individual who is or shall have been a member of the Board, or a Committee appointed by the Board, or an officer of the Company to whom authority was delegated in accordance with Article 3, shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Company against and from any loss, cost, liability, or expense that may be imposed upon or reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with or resulting from any claim, action, suit, or proceeding to which he or she may be a party or in which he or she may be involved by reason of any action taken or failure to act under this Plan and against and from any and all amounts paid by him or her in settlement thereof, with the Company’s approval, or paid by him or her in satisfaction of any judgment in any such action, suit, or proceeding against him or her, provided he or she shall give the Company an opportunity, at its own expense, to handle and defend the same before he or she undertakes to handle and defend it on his/her own behalf, unless such loss, cost, liability, or expense is a result of his/her own willful misconduct or except as expressly provided by statute.

The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of any other rights of indemnification to which such individuals may be entitled under the Company’s Articles of Incorporation or Code of Regulations, as a matter of law, or otherwise, or any power that the Company may have to indemnify them or hold them harmless.

20.20 *Controlling Language.* Unless otherwise specified herein, in the event of a conflict between the terms of the Plan and the terms of an Award Agreement, the terms of the Plan shall control.

Grant Recipient: [Name]
Grant Date: [Date]

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY
LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN**

**RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AWARD AGREEMENT
FOR NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS
(WITH RELATED DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS)**

This Award Agreement describes the type of Award that you have been granted and the terms and conditions of your Award.

1. DESCRIPTION OF YOUR RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS. You have been granted [# units] restricted stock units (“RSUs”) and an equal number of related dividend equivalents. The “Grant Date” of your Award is [Grant Date]. Each whole RSU represents the right to receive one full Share for each vested whole RSU at the time and in the manner described in this Award Agreement. Each dividend equivalent represents the right to receive additional RSUs (determined in accordance with Section 5) in respect of the dividends that are declared and paid during the period beginning on the Grant Date and ending on the Settlement Date (as described in Section 4(a)) with respect to the Share represented by the related vested RSU.

To accept this Award Agreement, you must provide your acknowledgement and acceptance of the terms contained herein by completing the on-line grant agreement process facilitated by Merrill Lynch (the “Third Party Administrator”) no later than [Acceptance Date].

2. INCORPORATION OF PLAN AND DEFINITIONS.

- (a) This Award Agreement and your RSUs and dividend equivalents are granted pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Long-Term Incentive Plan effective January 22, 2024 (the “Plan”). All provisions of the Plan are incorporated herein by reference, and your RSUs and related dividend equivalents are subject to the terms of the Plan and this Award Agreement. To the extent there is a conflict between this Award Agreement and the Plan, the Plan will govern.
- (b) Capitalized terms that are not defined in this Award Agreement have the same meanings as in the Plan.

3. **VESTING.** The RSUs described in this Award Agreement, including any RSUs credited pursuant to Section 5 on or prior to the Vesting Date (as defined below) will vest as follows:

- (a) **General Vesting.** If your Board service continues from the Grant Date until the first anniversary of the Grant Date, in this case [Date] (the “Vesting Date”), your RSUs described in this Award Agreement, including any RSUs credited pursuant to Section 5, will become 100% vested on the Vesting Date. Any RSUs received pursuant to Section 5 following the Vesting Date will be 100% vested on the date they are credited to you and will be settled in accordance with Section 4 of this Award Agreement; or
- (b) **Accelerated Vesting.** Under the following circumstances, your RSUs described in this Award Agreement, including any RSUs credited pursuant to Section 5, will vest earlier than the Vesting Date:
 - (i) If you Terminate from the Board prior to the Vesting Date, provided your Board service has continued at least through the date of the Company’s [Year] Annual Meeting of Shareholders, your RSUs will become 100% vested on the date of your Termination and will be settled in accordance with Section 4 of this Award Agreement;
 - (ii) If you Terminate because of your death or because you become Disabled, your RSUs will become 100% vested as of the date of such event and will be settled in accordance with Section 4 of this Award Agreement. For purposes of this Award Agreement, “Disabled” means that you have been determined to be totally disabled by the Social Security Administration.

4. SETTLEMENT.

- (a) Subject to the terms of the Plan and this Award Agreement, unless you have made a qualifying settlement election under subsection (d) below, your vested RSUs, including any RSUs credited pursuant to Section 5, shall be settled in a lump sum as soon as administratively practicable following the earliest date to occur of: (i) your Termination; (ii) your death, (iii) your Disability, or (iv) the third anniversary of the Grant Date (the “Settlement Date”). Your whole RSUs shall be settled in full Shares, and any fractional RSU shall be settled in cash, determined based upon the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Settlement Date, which shall be equal to the closing price of a Share on the Settlement date if it is a trading day or, if such date is not a trading day, on the next trading day.

- (b) Except as provided in Section 5 below, you will have none of the rights of a shareholder with respect to Shares underlying the RSUs unless and until you become the record holder of such Shares.
- (c) If there is a Change in Control, your RSUs, including any RSUs credited pursuant to Section 5, may vest and settle in accordance with the Plan. See the Plan for further details.
- (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) above, subject to the terms of the Plan and this Award Agreement, you may make an election to provide that if your Termination occurs before the third anniversary of the Grant Date, your vested RSUs, including any RSUs credited pursuant to Section 5, shall be settled in a lump sum as soon as administratively practicable following the third anniversary of the Grant Date. If applicable, a copy of the signed election must be attached to this Agreement as **Exhibit A**. For such an election to be effective, you must have completed such an election on a form provided by the Company no later than December 31st of the year before the year in which the Grant Date occurred. If you do not complete the election form within such time period provided in the form, you will receive your vested RSUs as provided in subsection (a) above.

5. DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS. With respect to each dividend equivalent:

- (a) If a cash dividend is declared and paid on the Shares underlying the RSUs, you will be credited with an additional number of RSUs equal to the quotient of:
 - (i) The product of (I) the number of RSUs granted under this Award Agreement (including additional RSUs previously credited in accordance with this Section 5) that have not been settled as of the dividend payment date, multiplied by (II) the amount of the cash dividend paid per Share; divided by
 - (ii) The Fair Market Value (which shall be equal to the closing price) of a Share on the date such cash dividend is paid.
- (b) If a Share dividend is declared and paid on the Shares underlying the RSUs, you will be credited with an additional number of RSUs equal to the product of:
 - (i) The number of RSUs granted under this Award Agreement (including additional RSUs previously credited in accordance with this Section 5) that have not been settled as of the dividend payment date, multiplied by
 - (ii) The number of Shares paid as a dividend per Share.
- (c) Any additional RSUs credited pursuant to this Section 5 shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as the RSUs granted pursuant to Section 1 above.

(d) Any fractional number of RSUs resulting from the calculations under this Section 5 shall be rounded to the nearest whole Share.

6. FORFEITURE. Except as otherwise provided in Section 3, if you Terminate prior to the Vesting Date your RSUs will be forfeited immediately.

7. AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION. Subject to the terms of the Plan, the Company may amend or terminate this Award Agreement or the Plan at any time.

8. BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION. You may name a beneficiary or beneficiaries to receive the any RSUs and related dividend equivalents that may vest per the terms of this Award Agreement but are settled after you die. This may be done only on the Beneficiary Designation Form prescribed by the Company or the Third Party Administrator. The Beneficiary Designation Form need not be completed now and is not required as a condition of receiving your Award. If you die without completing a Beneficiary Designation Form or if you do not complete that Form correctly, your beneficiary will be your surviving spouse or, if you do not have a surviving spouse, your estate.

9. TRANSFERRING YOUR RSUs AND RELATED DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS. Except as described in Section 8, your RSUs and related dividend equivalents may not be transferred to another person. Also, the Committee may allow you to place your RSUs and related dividend equivalents into a trust established for your benefit or the benefit of your family. Contact the Third Party Administrator for further details.

10. GOVERNING LAW. This Award Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio, excluding any conflicts or choice of law rule or principle that might otherwise refer construction or interpretation of the Plan to the substantive law of another jurisdiction. This Award Agreement and the delivery of any Shares hereunder shall be governed by applicable federal and state securities laws and exchanges.

11. OTHER AGREEMENTS AND POLICIES. Your RSUs and the related dividend equivalents will be subject to the terms of any other written agreements between you and the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate to the extent that those other agreements do not directly conflict with the terms of the Plan or this Award Agreement. Your RSUs and related dividend equivalents granted under the Plan shall be subject to any applicable Company clawback or recoupment policies, share trading policies and other policies that may be implemented by the Company from time to time.

12. ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR RSUs. Subject to the terms of the Plan, your RSUs and the related dividend equivalents will be adjusted, if appropriate, to reflect any change to the Company's capital structure (*e.g.*, the number of Shares underlying your RSUs will be adjusted to reflect a stock split).

13. YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AND AGREEMENT TO AWARD CONDITIONS.

By signing below, you acknowledge and agree that:

- (a) A copy of the Plan has been made available to you;
- (b) You understand and accept the terms and conditions of your Award;
- (c) By accepting this Award under the Plan, you agree to all Committee determinations as described in the Plan and this Award Agreement;
- (d) You will consent (on your own behalf and on behalf of your beneficiaries and transferees and without any further consideration) to any necessary change to your Award or this Award Agreement to comply with any law and to avoid paying penalties under Section 409A of the Code, even if those changes affect the terms of your Award and reduce its value or potential value; and
- (e) You must return a signed copy of this Award Agreement utilizing the on-line grant agreement process defined above before **[Date 30 Days After Grant Date]**.

[PARTICIPANT NAME]

THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY

By: _____

By: _____

[Name of Company Representative]

[Title of Company Representative]

Date signed: _____

Date signed: _____

Deferral of [YEAR] Cash Retainer

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY
LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN****DEFERRED STOCK UNIT AWARD AGREEMENT
FOR NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS
(WITH RELATED DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS)****DEFERRED STOCK UNITS CREDITED TO
[Director's Name]**

This Award Agreement describes the deferred stock units (“DSUs”) which you will be credited with upon conversion of quarterly installments of the annual cash retainer payable to you by the Company and the terms and conditions of your DSUs.

To accept this Award Agreement, you must provide your acknowledgement and acceptance of the terms contained herein by completing the on-line grant agreement process facilitated by Merrill Lynch (the “Third Party Administrator”) no later than **[Acceptance Date]**.

The Company intends that the DSUs credited under this Award Agreement satisfy the requirements of Section 409A of the Code and that this Award Agreement be so administered and construed. You agree that the Company may modify this Award Agreement, without any further consideration, to fulfill this intent, even if those modifications change the terms of your DSUs and reduce their value or potential value.

1. DESCRIPTION OF YOUR DEFERRED STOCK UNITS

You have elected to defer 100% of your [YEAR] quarterly cash retainer payments of [\$ amount] per quarter (the “Amount Deferred”) and in lieu thereof the Company will convert each forgone quarterly installment of the annual cash retainer into DSUs with a quarterly grant date value of [\$grant value] (the “Grant Date Value”), subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan and this Award Agreement. As of each date on which the Amount Deferred would otherwise be paid (each a “Conversion Date”), you will be credited with a number of DSUs and an equal number of related dividend equivalents, determined by dividing the Grant Date Value by the Fair Market Value of a Share. The number of DSUs credited to you each quarter will be reflected on Schedule A, as updated by the Company after each Conversion Date during [YEAR].

Each whole DSU represents the right to receive one full Share at the time and in the manner described in this Award Agreement. Each dividend equivalent represents the right to receive additional DSUs (determined in accordance with Section 3(c)) in respect of the dividends that are declared and paid during the period beginning on the relevant Conversion Date and ending on the Settlement Date (as described in Section 2(b)) with respect to the Shares represented by the related DSU.

2. VESTING AND SETTLEMENT

(a) **Vesting.** Your DSUs (and any related dividend equivalents received pursuant to Section 3(c) following the Conversion Date) will be 100% vested on the date they are credited to you.

(b) **Settlement.** Subject to the terms of the Plan, your vested DSUs shall be settled in a lump sum as soon as administratively practicable following the earliest to occur of: (i) your Termination (as defined below); (ii) your death; (iii) the date you become Disabled (as defined below); or (iv) [DATE] (the "Settlement Date"). Your whole DSUs shall be settled in full Shares, and any fractional DSU shall be settled in cash, determined based upon the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Settlement Date.

(c) **Definitions.** For purposes of this Award Agreement:

(i) "Disabled" means that you have been determined to be totally disabled by the Social Security Administration.

(ii) "Termination" (or any form thereof) means your "separation from service" from the Company, as defined in Section 409A of the Code.

3. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(a) **AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION.** Subject to the terms of the Plan, the Company may amend or terminate this Award Agreement or the Plan at any time.

(b) **RIGHTS BEFORE YOUR DSUs ARE SETTLED.** Except as provided in Section 3(c) below, you will have none of the rights of a shareholder with respect to Shares underlying the DSUs credited to you under this Award Agreement unless and until you become the record holder of such Shares.

(c) **DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS.** With respect to each dividend equivalent:

(i) If a cash dividend is declared and paid on the Shares underlying the DSUs credited to you under this Award Agreement, you will receive an additional number of DSUs equal to the quotient of:

(A) the product of (I) such number of DSUs (including additional DSUs previously received in accordance with this Section 3(c)) that have not been settled as of the dividend payment date, multiplied by (II) the amount of the cash dividend paid per Share; divided by

(B) the Fair Market Value (which shall be equal to the closing price) of a Share on the date such cash dividend is paid.

Any additional DSUs credited pursuant to this Section 3(c)(i) shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as the DSUs credited to you pursuant to Section 1 above.

(ii) If a Share dividend is declared and paid on the Shares underlying the DSUs credited under this Award Agreement, you will receive an additional number of DSUs equal to the product of (A) such number of DSUs (including additional DSUs previously received in accordance with this Section 3(c)) that have not been settled as of the dividend payment date, multiplied by (B) the dividend paid per Share. Any additional DSUs credited pursuant to this Section 3(c)(ii) shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as the DSUs credited pursuant to Section 1 above.

(iii) Any fractional number of DSUs resulting from the calculations under this Section 3(c) shall be rounded to the nearest whole Share.

(d) **BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION.** You may name a beneficiary or beneficiaries to receive the any unvested portion of your DSU and related dividend equivalent that are settled after when you die. This may be done only on the Beneficiary Designation Form prescribed by the Company or the Third Party Administrator. The Beneficiary Designation Form need not be completed now and is not required as a condition of receiving your Award. If you die without completing a Beneficiary Designation Form or if you do not complete that Form correctly, your beneficiary will be your surviving spouse or, if you do not have a surviving spouse, your estate.

(e) **TRANSFERRING YOUR DSUs AND RELATED DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS.** Normally your DSUs and related dividend equivalents may not be transferred to another person. However, as described in Section 3(d), you may complete a Beneficiary Designation Form to name the person to receive any DSUs and related dividend equivalents that are settled after you die. Also, the Committee may allow you to place your DSUs and dividend equivalents into a trust established for your benefit or the benefit of your family. Contact **Merrill Lynch** at **(800) 285-0648** or at the address given above if you are interested in doing this.

(f) **GOVERNING LAW.** This Award Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio, excluding any conflicts or choice of law rule or principle that might otherwise refer construction or interpretation of the Plan to the substantive law of another jurisdiction.

(g) **OTHER AGREEMENTS.** Your DSUs and the related dividend equivalents will be subject to the terms of any other written agreements between you and the Company or any Subsidiary or Affiliate to the extent that those other agreements do not directly conflict with the terms of the Plan or this Award Agreement.

(h) **ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR DSUs.** Subject to the terms of the Plan, your DSUs and the related dividend equivalents will be adjusted, if appropriate, to reflect any change to the Company's capital structure (*e.g.*, the number of Shares underlying your DSUs will be adjusted to reflect a stock split).

(i) **OTHER RULES.** Your DSUs and dividend equivalents are subject to more rules described in the Plan. You should read the Plan carefully to ensure you fully understand all the

terms and conditions of the crediting of DSUs and the related dividend equivalents under this Award Agreement.

4. YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AWARD CONDITIONS

By signing below, you acknowledge and agree that:

- (a) A copy of the Plan has been made available to you;
- (b) You understand and accept the terms and conditions of your DSUs;
- (c) You will consent (on your own behalf and on behalf of your beneficiaries and transferees and without any further consideration) to any necessary change to your DSUs or this Award Agreement to comply with any law and to avoid paying penalties under Section 409A of the Code, even if those changes affect the terms of your DSUs and reduce their value or potential value; and
- (d) You must return a signed copy of this Award Agreement utilizing the on-line grant agreement process defined above before **[Date 30 Days After Grant Date]** By signing below you acknowledge that the DSUs credited to you on each Conversion Date (as reflected on Schedule A for each Conversion Date) will be subject to the terms of the Plan and this Award Agreement.

[Director's Name]

THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY

By: _____

By: _____

[Name of Company Representative]

[Title of Company Representative]

Date signed: _____

Date signed: _____

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY
LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN**

**DEFERRED STOCK UNIT AWARD AGREEMENT
FOR NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS
(WITH RELATED DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS)**

**DEFERRED STOCK UNITS CREDITED TO
[Director's Name]**

SCHEDULE A

<u>Conversion Date</u>	<u>Amount Deferred (info only)</u>	<u>Quarterly Grant Date Value*</u>	<u>Applicable Share Price</u>	<u>Number of Deferred Stock Units</u>
[DATE]	[\$amount]	[\$amount]	[\$price]	[# TBD]
[DATE]	[\$amount]	[\$amount]	[\$price]	[# TBD]
[DATE]	[\$amount]	[\$amount]	[\$price]	[# TBD]
[DATE]	[\$amount]	[\$amount]	[\$price]	[# TBD]

*Quarterly grant date value is equal to the Amount Deferred plus a 15% enhancement

Note: the Company will update Schedule A each quarter to reflect the number of additional DSUs to be credited to you on the applicable Conversion Date