

| OMB APPROVAL                                 |           |
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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><u>Johnson Stephen L</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><u>C/O THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY</u><br><u>1411 SCOTTSLAWN ROAD</u><br><br>(Street)<br><u>MARYSVILLE OH 43041</u><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO CO [ SMG ]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner<br>Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)  |
|   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><u>09/08/2023</u>               |  |
| 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  |   | Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10. |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            |       | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price |   |  |   |

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |          | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |     | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |       |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|----------|--|-----|--|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|-------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V        | (A)  | (D) | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date |   |  |  |   |  | Title |
| <u>Dividend Equivalent Rights</u>          | <u>(I)</u>   | <u>09/08/2023</u>                    |  | <u>A</u>                       | <u>V</u> | <u>68</u>  |     | <u>(I)</u>   | <u>(I)</u>      | <u>Common Shares</u>  | <u>68</u>                                  | <u>\$53.18</u>   | <u>279</u>  | <u>D</u>   |       |

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. The dividend equivalent rights accrued on DSU or RSU grants and become exercisable proportionately with the DSUs or RSUs to which they relate. Each dividend equivalent right is the economic equivalent of one common share of the Issuer.

**Remarks:**

/s/ Kathy L. Uttley as attorney-in-fact for Stephen L. Johnson 09/12/2023

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.