

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

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark One)

**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended **December 28, 2024**

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from to  
Commission File Number: 001-11593

**The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Ohio**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**31-1414921**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

14111 Scottslawn Road, Marysville, Ohio 43041  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

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

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

As of January 31, 2025, there were 57,472,700 Common Shares outstanding.

THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY  
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PART I—FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations**  
(In millions, except per share data)  
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Net sales	\$ 416.8	\$ 410.4
Cost of sales	316.9	354.0
Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other	5.1	(5.8)
Gross margin	94.8	62.2
Operating expenses:		
Selling, general and administrative	124.8	114.8
Impairment, restructuring and other	16.5	(7.1)
Other expense, net	4.5	1.8
Loss from operations	(51.0)	(47.3)
Equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates	9.9	22.5
Interest expense	33.7	42.8
Other non-operating expense, net	1.3	1.6
Loss before income taxes	(95.9)	(114.2)
Income tax benefit	(26.4)	(33.7)
Net loss	<u>\$ (69.5)</u>	<u>\$ (80.5)</u>
Basic net loss per common share:	\$ (1.21)	\$ (1.42)
Diluted net loss per common share:	\$ (1.21)	\$ (1.42)
Weighted-average common shares outstanding during the period	57.3	56.7
Weighted-average common shares outstanding during the period plus dilutive potential common shares	57.3	56.7

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**  
(In millions)  
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Net loss	\$ (69.5)	\$ (80.5)
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Net foreign currency translation adjustment	(5.8)	3.1
Net unrealized gain (loss) on derivative instruments, net of tax	5.7	(8.2)
Reclassification of net unrealized gain on derivative instruments to net loss, net of tax	(1.7)	(1.5)
Net unrealized loss on securities, net of tax	—	(0.9)
Pension and other post-retirement benefit adjustments, net of tax	4.3	(1.4)
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	2.5	(8.9)
Comprehensive loss	<u>\$ (67.0)</u>	<u>\$ (89.4)</u>

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**  
(In millions)  
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net loss	\$ (69.5)	\$ (80.5)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Impairment, restructuring and other	12.5	0.2
Share-based compensation expense	15.5	16.0
Depreciation	15.8	16.1
Amortization	3.1	4.0
Deferred taxes	(21.8)	(7.1)
Equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates	9.9	22.5
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:		
Accounts receivable	(38.7)	18.2
Inventories	(326.7)	(286.3)
Prepaid and other current assets	(10.7)	(40.8)
Accounts payable	69.7	83.6
Other current liabilities	(100.8)	(81.8)
Other non-current items	(2.8)	(7.6)
Other, net	(0.8)	0.3
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(445.3)</u>	<u>(343.2)</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Investments in property, plant and equipment	(29.3)	(37.9)
Investments in unconsolidated affiliates	—	(21.4)
Other investing, net	6.0	6.1
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(23.3)</u>	<u>(53.2)</u>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Borrowings under revolving and bank lines of credit and term loans	525.1	444.9
Repayments under revolving and bank lines of credit and term loans	(60.3)	(34.7)
Dividends paid	(39.2)	(37.4)
Purchase of Common Shares	(15.6)	(3.1)
Cash received from exercise of stock options	0.7	0.5
Other financing, net	(3.0)	4.0
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>407.7</u>	<u>374.2</u>
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	(0.9)	0.7
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(61.8)	(21.5)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	71.6	31.9
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 9.8</u>	<u>\$ 10.4</u>

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**  
(In millions, except per share data)  
(Unaudited)

	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023	September 30, 2024
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9.8	\$ 10.4	\$ 71.6
Accounts receivable, less allowances of \$11.5, \$15.9 and \$9.6, respectively	213.6	287.6	176.8
Inventories	909.8	1,169.6	587.5
Prepaid and other current assets	152.2	213.8	144.5
Total current assets	1,285.4	1,681.4	980.4
Investment in unconsolidated affiliates	46.4	90.8	45.2
Property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$815.2, \$760.5 and \$805.4, respectively	606.9	610.4	609.5
Goodwill	243.9	243.9	243.9
Intangible assets, net	414.9	433.2	418.8
Other assets	572.7	656.4	574.1
Total assets	\$ 3,170.2	\$ 3,716.1	\$ 2,871.9
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (DEFICIT)</b>			
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
Current portion of debt	\$ 54.6	\$ 54.5	\$ 52.6
Accounts payable	309.3	332.5	254.7
Other current liabilities	319.9	377.1	443.0
Total current liabilities	683.8	764.1	750.3
Long-term debt	2,636.9	2,969.0	2,174.2
Other liabilities	329.0	368.4	338.0
Total liabilities	3,649.7	4,101.5	3,262.5
Commitments and contingencies (Note 10)			
Equity (deficit):			
Common shares and capital in excess of \$0.01 stated value per share; shares outstanding of 57.5, 56.7 and 57.1, respectively	349.1	349.6	362.0
Retained earnings	195.8	372.4	303.8
Treasury shares, at cost; 10.7, 11.5 and 11.0 shares, respectively	(919.6)	(985.7)	(949.1)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(104.8)	(121.7)	(107.3)
Total equity (deficit)	(479.5)	(385.4)	(390.6)
Total liabilities and equity (deficit)	\$ 3,170.2	\$ 3,716.1	\$ 2,871.9

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)**  
**(Dollars in millions, except per share data)**

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Nature of Operations**

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company (“Scotts Miracle-Gro”) and its subsidiaries (collectively, with Scotts Miracle-Gro, the “Company”) are engaged in the manufacturing, marketing and sale of products for lawn and garden care and indoor and hydroponic gardening. The Company’s products are sold in North America, Europe and Asia.

The Company’s North America consumer lawn and garden business is highly seasonal, with more than 75% of its annual net sales occurring in the second and third fiscal quarters. The Company’s Hawthorne segment is also impacted by seasonal sales patterns for certain product categories due to the timing of growing patterns in North America during the second and third fiscal quarters, and the timing of certain controlled agricultural lighting project sales during the third and fourth fiscal quarters.

**Organization and Basis of Presentation**

The Company’s unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023 are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”). The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Scotts Miracle-Gro and its subsidiaries. All intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated in consolidation. The Company’s consolidation criteria are based on majority ownership (as evidenced by a majority voting interest in the entity) and an objective evaluation and determination of effective management control. The results of businesses acquired or disposed of are included in the condensed consolidated financial statements from the date of each acquisition or up to the date of disposal, respectively. In the opinion of management, interim results reflect all normal and recurring adjustments and are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP have been omitted or condensed pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). Accordingly, this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended December 28, 2024 (this “Form 10-Q”) should be read in conjunction with Scotts Miracle-Gro’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 (the “2024 Annual Report”), which includes a complete set of footnote disclosures, including the Company’s significant accounting policies.

The Company’s Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet at September 30, 2024 has been derived from the Company’s audited Consolidated Balance Sheet at that date, but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements.

**Accounts Receivable**

On October 27, 2023, the Company entered into the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement, under which the Company could sell up to \$600.0 of available and eligible outstanding customer accounts receivable generated by sales to four specified customers. On September 1, 2024, the Company amended the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement to permit the Company to sell up to \$750.0 of available and eligible outstanding customer accounts receivable generated by sales to five specified customers. The agreement is uncommitted and expires on September 1, 2025. The receivable sales are non-recourse to the Company, other than with respect to (i) repurchase obligations and indemnification obligations for any violations by the Company of its respective representations or obligations as seller or servicer and (ii) certain repurchase and payment obligations arising from any dilution of, or dispute with respect to, any purchased receivables that arise after the sale of such purchased receivables to the purchaser not contemplated in the applicable purchase price of such purchased receivable. The recourse obligations of the Company that may arise from time to time are supported by standby letters of credit of \$75.0. Transactions under the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement are accounted for as sales of accounts receivable, and the receivables sold are removed from the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at the time of the sales transaction. Proceeds received from the sales of accounts receivable are classified as operating cash flows and collections of previously sold accounts receivable not yet submitted to the buyer are classified as financing cash flows in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. The Company records the discount on sales in the “Other expense, net” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. At December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023, and September 30, 2024, net receivables derecognized were \$236.7, \$140.1 and \$186.6, respectively. During the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, proceeds from the sale of receivables under the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement totaled \$274.0 and \$199.6, respectively, and the total discount recorded on sales was \$3.3 and \$2.2, respectively.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
**(Dollars in millions, except per share data)**

**Supplier Finance Program**

The Company has an agreement to provide a supplier finance program which facilitates participating suppliers' ability to finance payment obligations of the Company with a designated third-party financial institution. Participating suppliers may, at their sole discretion, elect to finance payment obligations of the Company prior to their scheduled due dates at a discounted price to the participating financial institution. The Company's obligations to its suppliers, including amounts due and scheduled payment dates, are not impacted by suppliers' decisions to finance amounts under this arrangement. The payment terms that the Company negotiates with its suppliers are consistent, regardless of whether a supplier participates in the program. The Company's current payment terms with a majority of its suppliers generally range from 30 to 60 days, which the Company deems to be commercially reasonable. The Company's outstanding payment obligations under its supplier finance program were \$27.1, \$30.8, and \$12.5 at December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, respectively, and are recorded within accounts payable in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. The associated payments were \$73.6 and \$69.8 for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively, and are classified as operating activities in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

**Long-Lived Assets**

The Company had non-cash investing activities of \$3.6 and \$8.6 during the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively, representing unpaid liabilities to acquire property, plant and equipment.

**Statements of Cash Flows**

Supplemental cash flow information was as follows:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Interest paid	\$ 40.3	\$ 49.6
Income taxes paid (refunded), net	(0.1)	0.8

During the three months ended December 30, 2023, the Company acquired an additional equity interest in Bonnie Plants, LLC for \$21.4, which was classified as an investing activity in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

**RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

In November 2023, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2023-07, "Segment Reporting (Topic 280): Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures." This ASU requires enhanced disclosures about significant segment expenses regularly provided to the chief operating decision maker that are included within each reported measure of segment profit or loss, and also requires all annual disclosures currently required by Topic 280 to be included in interim periods. ASU No. 2023-07 is to be applied retrospectively for all periods presented in the financial statements and is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2024, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of this guidance will have on the Company's disclosures.

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU No. 2023-09, "Income Taxes (Topic 740): Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures." This ASU primarily requires enhanced disclosures and disaggregation of income tax information by jurisdiction in the annual income tax reconciliation and quantitative and qualitative disclosures regarding income taxes paid. ASU No. 2023-09 is to be applied prospectively, with the option to apply the standard retrospectively, effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2024. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of this guidance will have on the Company's disclosures.

In November 2024, the FASB issued ASU No. 2024-03, "Income Statement — Reporting Comprehensive Income — Expense Disaggregation Disclosures (Subtopic 220-40): Disaggregation of Income Statement Expenses." This ASU requires disaggregated disclosures on an annual and interim basis, in the notes to the financial statements, of certain categories of expenses that are included in expense line items on the face of the statement of operations. ASU No. 2024-03 is to be applied prospectively, with the option to apply the standard retrospectively, effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2026, and interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2027. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of this guidance will have on the Company's disclosures.

**NOTE 2. INVESTMENT IN UNCONSOLIDATED AFFILIATES**

**Bonnie Plants**

The Company holds a 50% equity interest in Bonnie Plants, LLC, a joint venture with Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc. (“AFC”) focused on planting, growing, developing, distributing, marketing and selling live plants. During the three months ended December 31, 2022, the Company and AFC amended the joint venture agreement to allow AFC to make an additional equity contribution to Bonnie Plants, LLC, and, as a result of this contribution by AFC, the Company’s equity interest in Bonnie Plants, LLC was reduced to 45%. On November 7, 2023, the Company purchased an additional 5% equity interest in Bonnie Plants, LLC from AFC for \$21.4, which restored its total equity interest back to 50%. The Company’s interest is accounted for using the equity method of accounting, with the Company’s proportionate share of Bonnie Plants, LLC earnings reflected in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The Company recorded equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates associated with Bonnie Plants, LLC of \$9.9 and \$22.5 during the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively. The Company recorded a pre-tax impairment charge associated with its investment in Bonnie Plants, LLC of \$10.4 in the “Equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations during the three months ended December 30, 2023.

**Cansortium**

On December 19, 2024, Cansortium Inc. (“Cansortium”) (CSE: TIUM.U) (OTCQB: CNTMF), a vertically-integrated, multi-state cannabis company operating under the FLUENT™ brand, acquired all of the issued and outstanding common shares of RIV Capital Inc. (“RIV Capital”) in exchange for Cansortium shares (the “Transaction”). In connection with the Transaction, Cansortium and The Hawthorne Collective, Inc. (“THC”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, entered into an exchange and protection agreement on December 18, 2024, pursuant to which THC exchanged its existing convertible debt investment in RIV Capital for 153.1 million non-voting exchangeable shares of Cansortium. These exchangeable shares are convertible, at THC’s discretion, into approximately 23% of the common shares of Cansortium on a pro forma basis as of the closing of the Transaction. The exchange and protection agreement prohibits THC from converting the exchangeable shares into common shares above a defined 19.99% threshold unless and until Cansortium has received the shareholder approval required by the Canadian Stock Exchange. THC and Cansortium also entered into an investor rights agreement which allows THC to nominate up to two members to the Cansortium board of directors, and provides THC with certain participation rights in order to maintain its pro rata investment position in Cansortium in connection with any offering of Cansortium shares.

The Company’s convertible debt investment in RIV Capital, which was previously recorded in the “Other assets” line in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, had a carrying value of \$17.7 on December 18, 2024. The exchange of the RIV Capital convertible debt investment for non-voting exchangeable shares of Cansortium, a non-cash investing and financing activity, resulted in a loss of \$7.0 that was recorded in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

The Company’s interest in Cansortium had an initial fair value of \$10.7 and is recorded in the “Investment in unconsolidated affiliates” line in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. The estimated fair value of the non-voting exchangeable shares of Cansortium was determined based upon the quoted market price of Cansortium common shares as of the date of the exchange and represents a Level 2 nonrecurring fair value measurement. The Company’s interest is accounted for using the equity method of accounting, with the Company’s proportionate share of Cansortium earnings subsequent to December 18, 2024 reflected in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations on a one quarter lag.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

**NOTE 3. IMPAIRMENT, RESTRUCTURING AND OTHER**

Activity described herein is classified within the “Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other” and “Impairment, restructuring and other” lines in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. The following table details impairment, restructuring and other charges (recoveries) for each of the periods presented:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other:		
Restructuring and other charges (recoveries), net	\$ 1.8	\$ (5.8)
Right-of-use asset impairments	1.7	—
Property, plant and equipment impairments	1.6	—
Operating expenses—impairment, restructuring and other:		
Restructuring and other charges (recoveries), net	9.6	(7.1)
Loss on exchange of convertible debt investment	7.0	—
Total impairment, restructuring and other charges (recoveries), net	<u>\$ 21.7</u>	<u>\$ (12.9)</u>

The following table summarizes the activity related to liabilities associated with restructuring activities during the three months ended December 28, 2024:

Amounts accrued at September 30, 2024	\$ 18.9
Restructuring charges	10.2
Payments	(9.9)
Amounts accrued at December 28, 2024	<u>\$ 19.2</u>

As of December 28, 2024, restructuring accruals include \$7.7 that is classified as long-term.

During the three months ended December 28, 2024, the Company recorded executive severance charges of \$9.5 in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

During the three months ended December 28, 2024, the Company recorded a non-cash loss of \$7.0 in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations related to the exchange of its convertible debt investment in RIV Capital for non-voting exchangeable shares of Consortium. Refer to “NOTE 2. INVESTMENT IN UNCONSOLIDATED AFFILIATES” for further details.

During fiscal 2022, the Company began implementing a series of Company-wide organizational changes and initiatives intended to create operational and management-level efficiencies. As part of this restructuring initiative, the Company reduced the size of its supply chain network, reduced staffing levels and implemented other cost-reduction initiatives. The Company also accelerated the reduction of certain Hawthorne inventory, primarily lighting, growing environments and hardware products, to reduce on hand inventory to align with the reduced network capacity. During the three months ended December 28, 2024, the Company incurred costs of \$1.4 in its U.S. Consumer segment and \$3.7 in its Hawthorne segment associated with this restructuring initiative in the “Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. During the three months ended December 30, 2023, the Company recorded recoveries of \$3.7 associated with this restructuring initiative, primarily related to the sale of certain previously-reserved inventory at amounts in excess of estimated net realizable value, partially offset by employee termination benefits and facility closure costs. The Company incurred costs of \$2.0 in its U.S. Consumer segment and recorded recoveries of \$7.7 in its Hawthorne segment in the “Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations during the three months ended December 30, 2023. The Company recorded recoveries of \$0.8 in its U.S. Consumer segment and incurred costs of \$0.3 in its Hawthorne segment and \$2.4 at Corporate in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations during the three months ended December 30, 2023. Costs incurred since the inception of this restructuring initiative through December 28, 2024 were \$300.9 for the Hawthorne segment, \$59.8 for the U.S. Consumer segment, \$2.9 for the Other segment and \$25.1 for Corporate.

During the three months ended December 30, 2023, the Company recorded a gain of \$12.1 in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations associated with a payment received in resolution of a dispute with the former ownership group of a business that was acquired in fiscal 2022. This payment was classified as an operating activity in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

**NOTE 4. INVENTORIES**

Inventories consisted of the following for each of the periods presented:

	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023	September 30, 2024
Finished goods	\$ 546.8	\$ 770.6	\$ 246.6
Raw materials	269.7	298.1	256.8
Work-in-process	93.3	100.9	84.1
Total inventories, net	<u>\$ 909.8</u>	<u>\$ 1,169.6</u>	<u>\$ 587.5</u>

**NOTE 5. MARKETING AGREEMENT**

The Scotts Company LLC (“Scotts LLC”) is the exclusive agent of Monsanto Company, a subsidiary of Bayer AG (“Monsanto”), for the marketing and distribution of certain of Monsanto’s consumer Roundup® branded products in the United States and certain other specified countries. The annual commission payable under the Third Amended and Restated Exclusive Agency and Marketing Agreement (the “Third Restated Agreement”) is equal to 50% of the actual earnings before interest and income taxes of Monsanto’s consumer Roundup® business for each program year in the markets covered by the Third Restated Agreement (“Program EBIT”). The Third Restated Agreement also requires the Company to make annual payments of \$18.0 to Monsanto as a contribution against the overall expenses of its consumer Roundup® business, subject to reduction pursuant to the Third Restated Agreement for any program year in which the Program EBIT does not equal or exceed \$36.0.

Unless Monsanto terminates the Third Restated Agreement due to an event of default by the Company, termination rights under the Third Restated Agreement include the following:

- The Company may terminate the Third Restated Agreement upon the insolvency or bankruptcy of Monsanto;
- Monsanto may terminate the Third Restated Agreement in the event that Monsanto decides to decommission the permits, licenses and registrations needed for, and the trademarks, trade names, packages, copyrights and designs used in, the sale of the Roundup® products in the lawn and garden market (a “Brand Decommissioning Termination”); and
- Each party may terminate the Third Restated Agreement if Program EBIT falls below \$50.0 and, in such case, no termination fee would be payable to either party.

The termination fee structure requires Monsanto to pay a termination fee to the Company in an amount equal to (i) \$375.0 upon a Brand Decommissioning Termination, and (ii) the greater of \$175.0 or four times an amount equal to the average of the Program EBIT for the three program years before the year of termination, minus \$186.4, if Monsanto or its successor terminates the Third Restated Agreement as a result of a Roundup Sale or Change of Control of Monsanto (each, as defined in the Third Restated Agreement).

The elements of the net commission and reimbursements earned under the Third Restated Agreement and included in the “Net sales” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations are as follows:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Gross commission	\$ 10.2	\$ 8.8
Contribution expenses	(4.5)	(4.5)
Net commission	5.7	4.3
Reimbursements associated with Roundup® marketing agreement	22.0	19.1
Total net sales associated with Roundup® marketing agreement	<u>\$ 27.7</u>	<u>\$ 23.4</u>

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

**NOTE 6. DEBT**

The components of debt are as follows:

	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023	September 30, 2024
<b>Credit Facilities:</b>			
Revolving loans	\$ 475.6	\$ 511.2	\$ —
Term loans	612.5	912.5	625.0
Senior Notes due 2031 – 4.000%	500.0	500.0	500.0
Senior Notes due 2032 – 4.375%	400.0	400.0	400.0
Senior Notes due 2029 – 4.500%	450.0	450.0	450.0
Senior Notes due 2026 – 5.250%	250.0	250.0	250.0
Finance lease obligations	16.3	17.3	17.8
Other	2.3	2.5	—
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>2,706.7</b>	<b>3,043.5</b>	<b>2,242.8</b>
Less current portions	54.6	54.5	52.6
Less unamortized debt issuance costs	15.2	20.0	16.0
<b>Long-term debt</b>	<b>\$ 2,636.9</b>	<b>\$ 2,969.0</b>	<b>\$ 2,174.2</b>

**Credit Facilities**

On April 8, 2022, the Company entered into a sixth amended and restated credit agreement (the “Sixth A&R Credit Agreement”), providing the Company and certain of its subsidiaries with five-year senior secured loan facilities in the aggregate principal amount of \$2,500.0, comprised of a revolving credit facility of \$1,500.0 and a term loan in the original principal amount of \$1,000.0 (the “Sixth A&R Credit Facilities”). The Sixth A&R Credit Agreement will terminate on April 8, 2027. The Sixth A&R Credit Facilities are available for the issuance of letters of credit up to \$100.0. The terms of the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement include customary representations and warranties, affirmative and negative covenants, financial covenants, and events of default.

Under the terms of the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement, loans bear interest, at the Company’s election, at a rate per annum equal to either (i) the Alternate Base Rate plus the Applicable Spread (each, as defined in the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement) or (ii) the Adjusted Term SOFR Rate for the Interest Period in effect for such borrowing plus the Applicable Spread (all as defined in the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement). Swingline Loans bear interest at the applicable Swingline Rate set forth in the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. Interest rates for other select non-U.S. dollar borrowings, including borrowings denominated in euro, Pounds Sterling and Canadian dollars, are based on separate interest rate indices, as set forth in the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement.

On June 8, 2022, the Company entered into Amendment No. 1 to the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement (“Amendment No. 1”). Amendment No. 1 increased the maximum permitted leverage ratio for the quarterly leverage covenant until April 1, 2024. Amendment No. 1 also increased the interest rate applicable to borrowings under the revolving credit facility by 35 bps and the term loan facility by 50 bps, and increased the annual facility fee rate on the revolving credit facility by 15 bps, in each case, when the Company’s quarterly-tested leverage ratio exceeded 4.75.

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On July 31, 2023, the Company entered into Amendment No. 2 to the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement (“Amendment No. 2”). Amendment No. 2 (i) reduces the revolving loan commitments by \$250.0; (ii) increases the maximum permitted leverage ratio for the quarterly leverage covenant until the earlier of (a) October 1, 2025 and (b) subject to certain conditions specified in Amendment No. 2, the termination by the Company of such adjustment (such period, the “Leverage Adjustment Period”); (iii) replaces the interest coverage covenant with a fixed charge coverage covenant; (iv) increases the interest rate applicable to borrowings under the revolving credit facility and the term loan facility by 25 bps for each existing pricing tier and adds a pricing tier applicable to periods when the leverage ratio exceeds 6.00; (v) limits the amount of certain incremental investments, loans and advances to \$25.0 during the Leverage Adjustment Period; and (vi) adds the Company’s intellectual property (subject to certain exceptions) as collateral to secure its obligations under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. Additionally, Amendment No. 2 limits the Company’s ability to declare or pay any discretionary dividends, distributions or other restricted payments during the Leverage Adjustment Period to only the payment of (i) regularly scheduled cash dividends to holders of its Common Shares in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$225.0 per fiscal year and (ii) other dividends, distributions or restricted payments in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$25.0. Amendment No. 2 also subjects the Company’s ability to make certain investments to pro forma compliance with certain leverage levels specified in Amendment No. 2. Pursuant to Amendment No. 2, the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement is secured by (i) a perfected first priority security interest in all of the accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and intellectual property (subject to certain exceptions) of Scotts Miracle-Gro and certain of its domestic subsidiaries and (ii) the pledge of all of the capital stock of certain of Scotts Miracle-Gro’s domestic subsidiaries and a portion of the capital stock of certain of its foreign subsidiaries.

At December 28, 2024, the Company had letters of credit outstanding in the aggregate principal amount of \$83.1, and had \$691.3 of borrowing availability under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. The weighted average interest rates on average borrowings under the credit facilities, excluding the impact of interest rate swaps, were 8.5% and 9.1% for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively.

The Sixth A&R Credit Agreement contains, among other obligations, an affirmative covenant regarding the Company’s leverage ratio determined as of the end of each of its fiscal quarters calculated as average total indebtedness, divided by the Company’s earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, as adjusted pursuant to the terms of Amendment No. 2 (“Adjusted EBITDA”). Pursuant to Amendment No. 2, the maximum permitted leverage ratio is (i) 5.50 for the first quarter of fiscal 2025, (ii) 5.25 for the second quarter of fiscal 2025, (iii) 5.00 for the third quarter of fiscal 2025, (iv) 4.75 for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025 and (v) 4.50 for the first quarter of fiscal 2026 and thereafter. The Company’s leverage ratio was 4.52 at December 28, 2024. Pursuant to Amendment No. 2, the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement also contains an affirmative covenant regarding the Company’s fixed charge coverage ratio determined as of the end of each of its fiscal quarters, calculated as Adjusted EBITDA minus capital expenditures and expense for taxes paid in cash, divided by the sum of interest expense plus restricted payments, as described in Amendment No. 2. The minimum required fixed charge coverage ratio is 1.00. The Company’s fixed charge coverage ratio was 1.38 for the twelve months ended December 28, 2024.

As of December 28, 2024, the Company was in compliance with all applicable covenants in the agreements governing its debt. Based on the Company’s projections of its financial performance for the twelve-month period subsequent to the date of the filing of this Form 10-Q, the Company expects to remain in compliance with the financial covenants under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. However, the Company’s assessment of its ability to meet its future obligations is inherently subjective, judgment-based, and susceptible to change based on future events. A covenant violation may result in an event of default. Such a default would allow the lenders under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement to accelerate the maturity of the indebtedness thereunder and would also implicate cross-default provisions under the Senior Notes, as defined below, and cause the Senior Notes to become due and payable at that time. As of December 28, 2024, the Company’s indebtedness under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement and Senior Notes was \$2,688.1. The Company does not have sufficient cash on hand or available liquidity that can be utilized to repay these outstanding amounts in the event of default.

As part of its contingency planning to address potential future circumstances that could result in noncompliance, the Company has contemplated alternative plans including additional restructuring activities to reduce operating expenses and certain cash management strategies that are within the Company’s control. Additionally, the Company has contemplated alternative plans that are subject to market conditions and not in the Company’s control, including, among others, discussions with its lenders to amend the terms of its financial covenants under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement and generating cash by completing other financing transactions, which may include issuing equity. There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in implementing these alternative plans.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
**(Dollars in millions, except per share data)**

**Senior Notes**

On December 15, 2016, Scotts Miracle-Gro issued \$250.0 aggregate principal amount of 5.250% Senior Notes due 2026 (the “5.250% Senior Notes”). The 5.250% Senior Notes represent general unsecured senior obligations and rank equal in right of payment with the Company’s existing and future unsecured senior debt. The 5.250% Senior Notes have interest payment dates of June 15 and December 15 of each year.

On October 22, 2019, Scotts Miracle-Gro issued \$450.0 aggregate principal amount of 4.500% Senior Notes due 2029 (the “4.500% Senior Notes”). The 4.500% Senior Notes represent general unsecured senior obligations and rank equal in right of payment with the Company’s existing and future unsecured senior debt. The 4.500% Senior Notes have interest payment dates of April 15 and October 15 of each year.

On March 17, 2021, Scotts Miracle-Gro issued \$500.0 aggregate principal amount of 4.000% Senior Notes due 2031 (the “4.000% Senior Notes”). The 4.000% Senior Notes represent general unsecured senior obligations and rank equal in right of payment with the Company’s existing and future unsecured senior debt. The 4.000% Senior Notes have interest payment dates of April 1 and October 1 of each year.

On August 13, 2021, Scotts Miracle-Gro issued \$400.0 aggregate principal amount of 4.375% Senior Notes due 2032 (the “4.375% Senior Notes”). The 4.375% Senior Notes represent general unsecured senior obligations and rank equal in right of payment with the Company’s existing and future unsecured senior debt. The 4.375% Senior Notes have interest payment dates of February 1 and August 1 of each year.

Substantially all of Scotts Miracle-Gro’s directly and indirectly owned domestic subsidiaries serve as guarantors of the 5.250% Senior Notes, the 4.500% Senior Notes, the 4.000% Senior Notes and the 4.375% Senior Notes (collectively, the “Senior Notes”).

The Senior Notes contain an affirmative covenant regarding the Company’s interest coverage ratio determined as of the end of each of its fiscal quarters, calculated as Adjusted EBITDA divided by interest expense excluding costs related to refinancings. The minimum required interest coverage ratio is 2.00. The Company’s interest coverage ratio was 3.95 for the twelve months ended December 28, 2024.

**Interest Rate Swap Agreements**

The Company enters into interest rate swap agreements with major financial institutions that effectively convert a portion of the Company’s variable-rate debt to a fixed rate. Interest payments made between the effective date and expiration date are hedged by the swap agreements. Swap agreements that were hedging interest payments as of December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024 had a maximum total U.S. dollar equivalent notional amount of \$450.0, \$700.0 and \$450.0, respectively. The notional amount, effective date, expiration date and rate of each of the swap agreements outstanding at December 28, 2024 are shown in the table below:

Notional Amount (\$)	Effective Date (a)	Expiration Date	Fixed Rate
150	6/7/2023	4/7/2027	3.37 %
50	6/7/2023	4/7/2027	3.34 %
100 <sup>(b)</sup>	11/20/2023	3/22/2027	4.74 %
150 <sup>(b)</sup>	9/20/2024	9/20/2029	4.25 %

(a) The effective date refers to the date on which interest payments are first hedged by the applicable swap agreement.

(b) Notional amount adjusts in accordance with a specified seasonal schedule. This represents the maximum notional amount at any point in time.

**Weighted Average Interest Rate**

The weighted average interest rates on the Company’s debt, including the impact of interest rate swaps, were 5.5% and 6.0% for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

**NOTE 7. EQUITY (DEFICIT)**

The following tables provide a summary of the changes in equity (deficit) for each of the periods indicated:

	Common Shares and Capital in Excess of Stated Value	Retained Earnings	Treasury Shares	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Total Equity (Deficit)
Balance at September 30, 2024	\$ 362.0	\$ 303.8	\$ (949.1)	\$ (107.3)	\$ (390.6)
Net income (loss)	—	(69.5)	—	—	(69.5)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—	2.5	2.5
Share-based compensation	31.4	—	—	—	31.4
Dividends declared (\$0.66 per share)	—	(38.5)	—	—	(38.5)
Treasury share purchases	—	—	(15.6)	—	(15.6)
Treasury share issuances	(44.3)	—	45.1	—	0.8
Balance at December 28, 2024	<u>\$ 349.1</u>	<u>\$ 195.8</u>	<u>\$ (919.6)</u>	<u>\$ (104.8)</u>	<u>\$ (479.5)</u>

The sum of the components may not equal due to rounding.

	Common Shares and Capital in Excess of Stated Value	Retained Earnings	Treasury Shares	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Total Equity (Deficit)
Balance at September 30, 2023	\$ 353.1	\$ 490.9	\$ (998.5)	\$ (112.8)	\$ (267.3)
Net income (loss)	—	(80.5)	—	—	(80.5)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—	(8.9)	(8.9)
Share-based compensation	11.7	—	—	—	11.7
Dividends declared (\$0.66 per share)	—	(38.0)	—	—	(38.0)
Treasury share purchases	—	—	(3.1)	—	(3.1)
Treasury share issuances	(15.2)	—	15.9	—	0.7
Balance at December 30, 2023	<u>\$ 349.6</u>	<u>\$ 372.4</u>	<u>\$ (985.7)</u>	<u>\$ (121.7)</u>	<u>\$ (385.4)</u>

The sum of the components may not equal due to rounding.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
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**Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss**

Changes in accumulated other comprehensive loss (“AOCL”) by component were as follows for each of the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended				
	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Net Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Derivative Instruments	Net Unrealized Loss On Securities	Pension and Other Post-Retirement Benefit Adjustments	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)
Balance at September 30, 2024	\$ (21.3)	\$ 4.9	\$ (14.4)	\$ (76.5)	\$ (107.3)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	(5.8)	7.7	—	—	1.9
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive net income (loss)	—	(2.3)	—	5.8	3.5
Income tax benefit (expense)	—	(1.4)	—	(1.5)	(2.9)
Net current period other comprehensive income (loss)	(5.8)	4.0	—	4.3	2.5
Balance at December 28, 2024	\$ (27.1)	\$ 8.9	\$ (14.4)	\$ (72.2)	\$ (104.8)
Balance at September 30, 2023	\$ (21.9)	\$ 20.1	\$ (38.6)	\$ (72.4)	\$ (112.8)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	3.1	(11.0)	(0.9)	—	(8.8)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive net income (loss)	—	(2.0)	—	(2.1)	(4.1)
Income tax benefit (expense)	—	3.3	—	0.7	4.0
Net current period other comprehensive income (loss)	3.1	(9.7)	(0.9)	(1.4)	(8.9)
Balance at December 30, 2023	\$ (18.8)	\$ 10.4	\$ (39.5)	\$ (73.8)	\$ (121.7)

The sum of the components may not equal due to rounding.

**Share-Based Awards**

Subsequent to December 28, 2024, the Company awarded performance-based award units, stock options and deferred stock units representing 0.2 million Common Shares to associates and members of the Board of Directors with an estimated grant date fair value of \$13.4.

Total share-based compensation was as follows for each of the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Share-based compensation	\$ 17.3	\$ 16.0
Related tax benefit recognized	2.6	2.6

**Stock Options**

Stock option activity was as follows:

	No. of Options	Wtd. Avg. Exercise Price	Wtd. Avg. Remaining Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Awards outstanding at September 30, 2024	2,377,672	\$ 65.03	7.5 years	
Granted	419,885	72.60		
Exercised	(4,570)	61.31		
Forfeited	(139,881)	65.31		
Awards outstanding at December 28, 2024	2,653,106	66.25	7.6 years	\$ 25.4
Exercisable	548,227	104.43	3.0 years	2.0

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The weighted-average fair value per share of each option granted during the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023 was \$22.26 and \$15.16, respectively. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the three months ended December 28, 2024 was not material. There were no options exercised during the three months ended December 30, 2023. As of December 28, 2024, there was \$10.6 of total unrecognized pre-tax compensation cost, net of estimated forfeitures, related to nonvested stock options that is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.0 years. Cash received from the exercise of stock options, including amounts received from employee purchases under the employee stock purchase plan, was \$0.7 and \$0.5 for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively.

The weighted average assumptions used in the estimation of fair value for awards granted during the three months ended December 28, 2024 are as follows:

Expected volatility	39.6 %
Risk-free interest rate	4.2 %
Expected dividend yield	3.3 %
Expected life	6.1 years

***Restricted share-based awards***

Restricted share-based award activity (including restricted stock units and deferred stock units) was as follows:

	No. of Units	Wtd. Avg. Grant Date Fair Value per Unit
Awards outstanding at September 30, 2024	766,384	\$ 68.54
Granted	281,950	75.36
Vested	(521,023)	63.62
Forfeited	(10,741)	68.38
Awards outstanding at December 28, 2024	516,570	77.23

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of restricted share-based awards granted during the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023 was \$75.36 and \$48.79 per share, respectively. As of December 28, 2024, there was \$7.6 of total unrecognized pre-tax compensation cost, net of estimated forfeitures, related to nonvested restricted share-based awards that is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.8 years. The total fair value of restricted share-based awards vested during the three months ended December 28, 2024 was \$43.0.

For fiscal 2024, the Company granted short-term equity incentive compensation awards to certain associates in the form of restricted share-based award units in lieu of cash-based annual incentive awards. During the three months ended December 28, 2024, these fiscal 2024 awards representing 0.3 million Common Shares were granted and vested on the incentive payout date. The number of restricted share-based award units that the Company ultimately issued to participating associates was based on the incentive payout amount determined for each employee that was then converted into a variable number of restricted share-based award units based on the fair value of the Common Shares on the grant date.

For fiscal 2025, the Company is granting short-term equity incentive compensation awards to certain associates in the form of restricted share-based award units in lieu of cash-based annual incentive awards. The program is structured so the fiscal 2025 incentive grant, if any, will be made on or near the incentive payout date, subject to certain performance conditions and a service requirement. The number of restricted share-based award units that are ultimately issued to participating associates will be determined based on the incentive payout amount determined for each associate converted into a variable number of restricted share-based award units based on the fair value of the Common Shares on the grant date. The awards are classified as liability awards and, as of December 28, 2024, the Company had accrued \$3.9 in the "Other current liabilities" line in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets associated with these awards. As of December 28, 2024, there was \$17.0 of total unrecognized pre-tax compensation cost related to these nonvested restricted share-based awards that is expected to be recognized over the remainder of fiscal 2025. The units associated with these awards are excluded from the table above.

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**Performance-based awards**

Performance-based award activity was as follows (based on target award amounts):

	No. of Units	Wtd. Avg. Grant Date Fair Value per Unit
Awards outstanding at September 30, 2024	409,430	\$ 86.61
Forfeited	(101,680)	117.78
Awards outstanding at December 28, 2024	307,750	76.96

The weighted-average grant-date fair value of performance-based award units granted during the three months ended December 30, 2023 was \$44.86 per share. As of December 28, 2024, there was \$4.9 of total unrecognized pre-tax compensation cost, net of estimated forfeitures, related to nonvested performance-based award units that is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.9 years. The total fair value of performance-based award units vested during the three months ended December 30, 2023 was \$10.6.

**NOTE 8. EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE**

The following table presents information necessary to calculate basic and diluted net loss per common share for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Net loss	\$ (69.5)	\$ (80.5)
<b>Basic net loss per common share:</b>		
Weighted-average common shares outstanding during the period	57.3	56.7
Basic net loss per common share:	\$ (1.21)	\$ (1.42)
<b>Diluted net loss per common share:</b>		
Weighted-average common shares outstanding during the period	57.3	56.7
Dilutive potential common shares	—	—
Weighted-average common shares outstanding during the period plus dilutive potential common shares	57.3	56.7
Diluted net loss per common share:	\$ (1.21)	\$ (1.42)
Antidilutive stock options outstanding	0.2	1.0

Diluted average Common Shares used in the diluted net loss per common share calculation for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023 were 57.3 million and 56.7 million, respectively, which excluded potential Common Shares of 1.5 million and 0.5 million, respectively, because the effect of their inclusion would be anti-dilutive as the Company incurred a net loss for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023.

**NOTE 9. INCOME TAXES**

The effective tax rates for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023 were 27.5% and 29.5%, respectively. The effective tax rate used for interim reporting purposes is based on management's best estimate of factors impacting the effective tax rate for the full fiscal year and includes the impact of discrete items recognized in the quarter. There can be no assurance that the effective tax rate estimated for interim financial reporting purposes will approximate the effective tax rate determined at fiscal year-end.

Scotts Miracle-Gro or one of its subsidiaries files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various state, local and foreign jurisdictions. Subject to the following exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to examination by these tax authorities for fiscal years prior to 2021. There are currently no ongoing audits with respect to the U.S. federal jurisdiction. With respect to the foreign jurisdictions, a Canadian audit covering fiscal years 2020 through 2021 is in process. The Company is currently under examination by certain U.S. state and local tax authorities covering various periods from fiscal years 2018 through 2023. In addition to the aforementioned audits, certain other tax deficiency notices and refund claims for previous years remain unresolved.

The Company currently anticipates that few of its open and active audits will be resolved within the next twelve months. The Company is unable to make a reasonably reliable estimate as to when or if cash settlements with taxing authorities may occur. Although the outcomes of such examinations and the timing of any payments required upon the conclusion of such examinations are subject to significant uncertainty, the Company does not anticipate that the resolution of these tax matters or any events related thereto will result in a material change to its consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

#### **NOTE 10. CONTINGENCIES**

Management regularly evaluates the Company's contingencies, including various judicial and administrative proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of business, including product and general liabilities, workers' compensation, property losses and other liabilities for which the Company is self-insured or retains a high exposure limit. Self-insurance accruals are established based on actuarial loss estimates for specific individual claims plus actuarially estimated amounts for incurred but not reported claims and adverse development factors applied to existing claims. Legal costs incurred in connection with the resolution of claims, lawsuits and other contingencies generally are expensed as incurred. In the opinion of management, the assessment of contingencies is reasonable and related accruals are adequate, both individually and in the aggregate; however, there can be no assurance that final resolution of these matters will not have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

##### **Regulatory Matters**

At December 28, 2024, the Company had recorded liabilities of \$2.6 for environmental actions, the majority of which are for site remediation. The Company believes that the amounts accrued are adequate to cover such known environmental exposures based on current facts and estimates of likely outcomes. Although it is reasonably possible that the costs to resolve such known environmental exposures will exceed the amounts accrued, any variation from accrued amounts is not expected to be material.

##### **Other**

The Company has been named as a defendant in a number of cases alleging injuries that the lawsuits claim resulted from exposure to asbestos-containing products, apparently based on the Company's historic use of vermiculite in certain of its products. In many of these cases, the complaints are not specific about the plaintiffs' contacts with the Company or its products. The cases vary, but complaints in these cases generally seek unspecified monetary damages (actual, compensatory, consequential and punitive) from multiple defendants. The Company believes that the claims against it are without merit and is vigorously defending against them. The Company has not recorded any accruals in its condensed consolidated financial statements as the likelihood of a loss from these cases is not probable at this time. The Company does not believe a reasonably possible loss would be material to the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. In addition, the Company does not believe the ultimate resolution of these cases will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. There can be no assurance that future developments related to pending claims or claims filed in the future, whether as a result of adverse outcomes or as a result of significant defense costs, will not have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

On June 6, 2024, a purported shareholder filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio (Case No. 2:24-cv-03132) on behalf of a proposed class of purchasers of Common Shares between November 3, 2021, and August 1, 2023. On July 26, 2024, another purported shareholder filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio (Case No. 2:24-cv-03766) on behalf of a proposed class of purchasers of Common Shares between June 2, 2021, and August 1, 2023. These lawsuits, which will likely be consolidated together with any subsequently filed lawsuits alleging similar facts, assert claims under Section 10(b), Rule 10b-5 and Section 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act against the Company and certain of its current and former officers based on alleged misstatements about the Company's inventories, sales and business prospects. The actions seek, among other things, unspecified monetary damages, reasonable costs and expenses and equitable/injunctive or other relief as deemed appropriate by the Court. The Company believes that the claims asserted are without merit and intends to vigorously defend the actions.

Beginning in July 2024, purported shareholders filed a series of shareholder derivative lawsuits in state and federal courts in Ohio against certain of the Company's current and former directors and officers. The lawsuits include allegations that generally mirror those asserted in the securities lawsuits described above and assert claims for breaches of fiduciary duties and unjust enrichment, as well as abuse of control, gross mismanagement, and waste of corporate assets. The federal lawsuits also assert claims under the Securities Exchange Act. The actions seek a judgment in favor of the Company for unspecified damages, disgorgement, interest, and costs and expenses, including attorneys' and experts' fees.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
**(Dollars in millions, except per share data)**

The Company is involved in other lawsuits and claims which arise in the normal course of business including the initiation and defense of proceedings to protect intellectual property rights, advertising claims, securities matters and employment disputes. These claims individually and in the aggregate are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company’s financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

**NOTE 11. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGING ACTIVITIES**

The Company is exposed to market risks, such as changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates and commodity prices. To manage a portion of the volatility related to these exposures, the Company enters into various financial transactions. The utilization of these financial transactions is governed by policies covering acceptable counterparty exposure, instrument types and other hedging practices. The Company does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative trading purposes.

**Exchange Rate Risk Management**

The Company uses currency forward contracts to manage the exchange rate risk associated with intercompany loans and certain other balances denominated in foreign currencies. Currency forward contracts are valued using observable forward rates in commonly quoted intervals for the full term of the contracts. The notional amount of outstanding currency forward contracts was \$161.2, \$112.5 and \$148.4 at December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, respectively. Contracts outstanding at December 28, 2024 will mature over the next fiscal quarter.

**Interest Rate Risk Management**

The Company enters into interest rate swap agreements as a means to hedge its variable interest rate risk on debt instruments. Net amounts to be received or paid under the swap agreements are reflected as adjustments to interest expense. The Company has outstanding interest rate swap agreements with major financial institutions that effectively convert a portion of the Company’s variable-rate debt to a fixed rate. Interest rate swap agreements are valued based on the present value of the estimated future net cash flows using implied rates in the applicable yield curve as of the valuation date. Swap agreements that were hedging interest payments as of December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024 had a maximum total U.S. dollar equivalent notional amount of \$450.0, \$700.0 and \$450.0, respectively. Refer to “NOTE 6. DEBT” for the terms of the swap agreements outstanding at December 28, 2024. Included in the AOCL balance at December 28, 2024 was a gain of \$5.4 related to interest rate swap agreements that is expected to be reclassified to earnings during the next twelve months, consistent with the timing of the underlying hedged transactions.

**Commodity Price Risk Management**

The Company enters into hedging arrangements designed to fix the price of a portion of its projected future urea and diesel requirements. Commodity contracts are valued using observable commodity exchange prices in active markets. Included in the AOCL balance at December 28, 2024 was a gain of \$1.0 related to commodity hedges that is expected to be reclassified to earnings during the next twelve months, consistent with the timing of the underlying hedged transactions.

The Company had the following outstanding commodity contracts that were entered into to hedge forecasted purchases:

Commodity	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023	September 30, 2024
Urea	24,000 tons	18,000 tons	51,000 tons
Diesel	3,066,000 gallons	2,226,000 gallons	1,092,000 gallons
Heating Oil	1,302,000 gallons	1,008,000 gallons	42,000 gallons

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

***Fair Values of Derivative Instruments***

The fair values of the Company's derivative instruments, which represent Level 2 fair value measurements, were as follows:

Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments	Balance Sheet Location	Assets / (Liabilities)		
		December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023	September 30, 2024
Interest rate swap agreements	Prepaid and other current assets	\$ 1.5	\$ 14.4	\$ 0.9
	Other assets	1.7	7.1	—
	Other current liabilities	(0.1)	—	(0.2)
	Other liabilities	(1.0)	(2.0)	(5.1)
Commodity hedging instruments	Prepaid and other current assets	0.8	—	0.8
	Other current liabilities	—	(0.4)	—
Total derivatives designated as hedging instruments		<u>\$ 2.9</u>	<u>\$ 19.1</u>	<u>\$ (3.6)</u>
Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments	Balance Sheet Location			
Currency forward contracts	Prepaid and other current assets	\$ 0.2	\$ —	\$ 0.1
	Other current liabilities	(0.4)	(2.8)	(4.0)
Commodity hedging instruments	Other current liabilities	—	(0.3)	—
Total derivatives not designated as hedging instruments		<u>(0.2)</u>	<u>(3.1)</u>	<u>(3.9)</u>
Total derivatives		<u>\$ 2.7</u>	<u>\$ 16.0</u>	<u>\$ (7.5)</u>

The effect of derivative instruments on AOCL, net of tax, and the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for each of the periods presented was as follows:

Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships		Amount of Gain / (Loss) Recognized in AOCL	
		Three Months Ended	
		December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Interest rate swap agreements		\$ 5.4	\$ (6.4)
Commodity hedging instruments		0.3	(1.8)
Total		<u>\$ 5.7</u>	<u>\$ (8.2)</u>
Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships	Reclassified from AOCL into Statement of Operations	Amount of Gain / (Loss) Recognized in AOCL	
		Three Months Ended	
		December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Interest rate swap agreements	Interest expense	\$ 1.6	\$ 2.6
Commodity hedging instruments	Cost of sales	0.1	(1.1)
Total		<u>\$ 1.7</u>	<u>\$ 1.5</u>
Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments	Recognized in Statement of Operations	Amount of Gain / (Loss) Recognized in AOCL	
		Three Months Ended	
		December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Currency forward contracts	Other income / expense, net	\$ 9.7	\$ (4.8)
Commodity hedging instruments	Cost of sales	—	(1.3)
Total		<u>\$ 9.7</u>	<u>\$ (6.1)</u>

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**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
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**NOTE 12. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

The following table summarizes the fair value of the Company’s assets and liabilities for which disclosure of fair value is required:

	Fair Value Hierarchy Level	December 28, 2024		December 30, 2023		September 30, 2024	
		Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Estimated Fair Value
<b>Assets</b>							
Cash equivalents	Level 1	\$ 0.9	\$ 0.9	\$ 1.5	\$ 1.5	\$ 51.2	\$ 51.2
<b>Other</b>							
Investment securities in non-qualified retirement plan assets	Level 1	32.7	32.7	40.1	40.1	32.4	32.4
Convertible debt investments	Level 3	28.1	28.1	85.0	85.0	45.8	45.8
<b>Liabilities</b>							
<b>Debt instruments</b>							
Credit facilities – revolving loans	Level 2	475.6	475.6	511.2	511.2	—	—
Credit facilities – term loans	Level 2	612.5	612.5	912.5	912.5	625.0	625.0
Senior Notes due 2031 – 4.000%	Level 2	500.0	435.0	500.0	425.0	500.0	456.3
Senior Notes due 2032 – 4.375%	Level 2	400.0	348.0	400.0	339.0	400.0	370.0
Senior Notes due 2029 – 4.500%	Level 2	450.0	414.0	450.0	401.6	450.0	432.0
Senior Notes due 2026 – 5.250%	Level 2	250.0	245.0	250.0	242.2	250.0	248.8
Other debt	Level 2	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	—	—

Changes in the balance of Level 3 convertible debt investments carried at fair value are presented below. There were no transfers into or out of Level 3.

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Fair value at beginning of period	\$ 45.8	\$ 85.8
Total realized / unrealized gains (losses) included in net earnings	(7.0)	0.1
Total realized / unrealized losses included in OCI	—	(0.9)
Exchange for non-voting exchangeable shares of Consortium	(10.7)	—
Fair value at end of period	\$ 28.1	\$ 85.0

On December 18, 2024, the Company exchanged its convertible debt investment in RIV Capital for non-voting exchangeable shares of Consortium. Refer to “NOTE 2. INVESTMENT IN UNCONSOLIDATED AFFILIATES” for further details.

The amortized cost basis of convertible debt investments was \$44.4, \$225.9 and \$62.1 at December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, respectively. At December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, gross unrealized losses on convertible debt investments were \$16.4, \$140.9 and \$16.4, respectively, and there were no gross unrealized gains. These investments have been in a continuous unrealized loss position for greater than 12 months as of December 28, 2024. The allowance for expected credit losses was \$1.9, \$101.3 and \$1.9 at December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, respectively. At December 28, 2024, the weighted-average period until scheduled maturity of the Company’s convertible debt investments was 4.7 years.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

**NOTE 13. LEASES**

The Company leases certain property and equipment from third parties under various non-cancelable lease agreements, including industrial, commercial and office properties and equipment that support the management, manufacturing, distribution and research and development of products marketed and sold by the Company. The lease agreements generally require that the Company pay taxes, insurance and maintenance expenses related to the leased assets. At December 28, 2024, the Company had entered into operating leases that were yet to commence with a combined total expected lease liability of \$28.4. From time to time, the Company will sublease portions of its facilities, resulting in sublease income. Sublease income and the related cash flows were not material to the condensed consolidated financial statements for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023.

The Company leases certain vehicles (primarily cars and light trucks) under agreements that are cancellable after the first year, but typically continue on a month-to-month basis until canceled by the Company. The vehicle leases and certain other non-cancelable operating leases contain residual value guarantees that create a contingent obligation on the part of the Company to compensate the lessor if the leased asset cannot be sold for an amount in excess of a specified minimum value at the conclusion of the lease term. If all such vehicle leases had been canceled as of December 28, 2024, the Company's residual value guarantee would have approximated \$6.3.

Supplemental balance sheet information related to the Company's leases was as follows:

	Balance Sheet Location	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023	September 30, 2024
<b>Operating leases:</b>				
Right-of-use assets	Other assets	\$ 260.5	\$ 282.6	\$ 265.4
Current lease liabilities	Other current liabilities	75.7	77.2	75.3
Non-current lease liabilities	Other liabilities	210.4	234.0	215.8
Total operating lease liabilities		<u>\$ 286.1</u>	<u>\$ 311.2</u>	<u>\$ 291.1</u>
<b>Finance leases:</b>				
Right-of-use assets	Property, plant and equipment, net	\$ 13.6	\$ 14.8	\$ 15.2
Current lease liabilities	Current portion of debt	2.3	2.1	2.6
Non-current lease liabilities	Long-term debt	14.0	15.2	15.2
Total finance lease liabilities		<u>\$ 16.3</u>	<u>\$ 17.3</u>	<u>\$ 17.8</u>

Components of lease cost were as follows:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Operating lease cost <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ 21.4	\$ 22.0
Variable lease cost	5.9	6.6
Finance lease cost		
Amortization of right-of-use assets	0.7	0.6
Interest on lease liabilities	0.2	0.2
Total finance lease cost	<u>\$ 0.9</u>	<u>\$ 0.8</u>

(a) Operating lease cost includes amortization of right-of-use assets of \$17.2 and \$18.2 for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively. Short-term lease expense is excluded from operating lease cost and is not material.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

Supplemental cash flow information and non-cash activity related to the Company's leases were as follows:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
<b>Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities:</b>		
Operating cash flows from operating leases, net	\$ 23.8	\$ 24.3
Operating cash flows from finance leases	0.2	0.2
Financing cash flows from finance leases	0.6	0.5
<b>Right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for lease obligations:</b>		
Operating leases	\$ 14.6	\$ 33.5
Finance leases	0.4	0.8

Weighted-average remaining lease term and discount rate for the Company's leases were as follows:

	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
<b>Weighted-average remaining lease term (in years):</b>		
Operating leases	5.1	5.5
Finance leases	8.2	9.1
<b>Weighted-average discount rate:</b>		
Operating leases	6.3 %	5.5 %
Finance leases	4.6 %	4.5 %

Maturities of lease liabilities by fiscal year for the Company's leases as of December 28, 2024 were as follows:

Year	Operating Leases	Finance Leases
2025 (remainder of the year)	\$ 69.5	\$ 2.3
2026	77.0	2.7
2027	52.4	2.4
2028	41.8	2.0
2029	29.2	1.7
Thereafter	67.0	8.6
Total lease payments	336.9	19.7
Less: Imputed interest	(50.8)	(3.4)
Total lease liabilities	\$ 286.1	\$ 16.3

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

**NOTE 14. SEGMENT INFORMATION**

The Company divides its operations into three reportable segments: U.S. Consumer, Hawthorne and Other. U.S. Consumer consists of the Company's consumer lawn and garden business in the United States. Hawthorne consists of the Company's indoor and hydroponic gardening business. Other primarily consists of the Company's consumer lawn and garden business in Canada. This identification of reportable segments is consistent with how the segments report to and are managed by the chief operating decision maker of the Company. In addition, Corporate consists of general and administrative expenses and certain other income and expense items not allocated to the reportable business segments.

The performance of each reportable segment is evaluated based on several factors, including income (loss) before income taxes, amortization, impairment, restructuring and other charges ("Segment Profit (Loss)"). Senior management uses Segment Profit (Loss) to evaluate segment performance because the Company believes this measure is indicative of performance trends and the overall earnings potential of each segment.

The following tables present financial information for the Company's reportable segments for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
<b>Net Sales:</b>		
U.S. Consumer	\$ 340.9	\$ 306.7
Hawthorne	52.1	80.1
Other	23.8	23.6
Consolidated	<u>\$ 416.8</u>	<u>\$ 410.4</u>
<b>Segment Profit (Loss):</b>		
U.S. Consumer	\$ 10.0	\$ (15.5)
Hawthorne	1.7	(9.7)
Other	(3.1)	(5.0)
Total Segment Profit (Loss)	8.6	(30.2)
Corporate	(34.8)	(26.0)
Intangible asset amortization	(3.1)	(4.0)
Impairment, restructuring and other	(21.7)	12.9
Equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates	(9.9)	(22.5)
Interest expense	(33.7)	(42.8)
Other non-operating expense, net	(1.3)	(1.6)
Loss before income taxes	<u>\$ (95.9)</u>	<u>\$ (114.2)</u>

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) — (Continued)**  
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The following table presents net sales by product category for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
<b>U.S. Consumer:</b>		
Lawn care	\$ 124.3	\$ 118.8
Growing media and mulch	93.4	72.0
Controls	64.6	53.4
Roundup® marketing agreement	27.7	23.4
Other, primarily gardening	30.9	39.1
<b>Hawthorne:</b>		
Lighting	22.9	31.9
Nutrients	17.5	16.6
Growing media	4.9	11.2
Growing environment	2.6	11.5
Other, primarily hardware	4.2	8.9
<b>Other:</b>		
Growing media	12.6	13.2
Lawn care	2.3	2.3
Other, primarily gardening and controls	8.9	8.1
<b>Total net sales</b>	<b>\$ 416.8</b>	<b>\$ 410.4</b>

The following table presents net sales by geographic area for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
<b>Net sales:</b>		
United States	\$ 379.3	\$ 365.8
International	37.5	44.6
	<b>\$ 416.8</b>	<b>\$ 410.4</b>

**ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The purpose of this Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (“MD&A”) is to provide an understanding of our financial condition and results of operations by focusing on changes in certain key measures from year-to-year. This MD&A includes the following sections:

- Executive summary
- Results of operations
- Segment results
- Liquidity and capital resources
- Regulatory matters
- Critical accounting estimates

This MD&A should be read in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” included in Scotts Miracle-Gro’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 (the “2024 Annual Report”) and our condensed consolidated financial statements included in this Form 10-Q.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Our operations are divided into three reportable segments: U.S. Consumer, Hawthorne and Other. U.S. Consumer consists of our consumer lawn and garden business in the United States. Hawthorne consists of our indoor and hydroponic gardening business. Other primarily consists of our consumer lawn and garden business in Canada. This division of reportable segments is consistent with how the segments report to and are managed by our chief operating decision maker. In addition, Corporate consists of general and administrative expenses and certain other income and expense items not allocated to the business segments. See “SEGMENT RESULTS” below for additional information regarding our evaluation of segment performance.

Through our U.S. Consumer and Other segments, we are the leading manufacturer and marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products in North America. Our products are marketed under some of the most recognized brand names in the industry. Our key consumer lawn and garden brands include Scotts® Turf Builder® lawn fertilizer and Scotts® grass seed products; Miracle-Gro® soil, plant food and gardening products; Ortho® herbicide and pesticide products; and Tomcat® rodent control and animal repellent products. We are the exclusive agent of Monsanto for the marketing and distribution of certain of Monsanto’s consumer Roundup® branded products within the United States and certain other specified countries. In addition, we have an equity interest in Bonnie Plants, LLC, a joint venture with AFC focused on planting, growing, developing, distributing, marketing and selling live plants.

Through our Hawthorne segment, we are a leading provider of nutrients, lighting and other materials used for indoor and hydroponic gardening in North America. Our Signature brands include General Hydroponics®, Gavita®, Botanicare®, Agrolux®, Gro Pro®, Mother Earth®, Grower’s Edge®, HydroLogic Purification System® and CYCO®.

Due to the seasonal nature of the consumer lawn and garden business, significant portions of our U.S. Consumer and Other segment net sales ship to our retail customers during our second and third fiscal quarters, as noted in the following table. Our annual net sales are further concentrated in the second and third fiscal quarters by retailers who rely on our ability to deliver products closer to when consumers buy our products. Our Hawthorne segment is also impacted by seasonal sales patterns for certain product categories due to the timing of growing patterns in North America during our second and third fiscal quarters, and the timing of certain controlled agricultural lighting project sales during our third and fourth fiscal quarters.

	Percent of Net Sales from Continuing Operations by Quarter		
	2024	2023	2022
First Quarter	11.6 %	14.8 %	14.4 %
Second Quarter	42.9 %	43.2 %	42.8 %
Third Quarter	33.8 %	31.5 %	30.2 %
Fourth Quarter	11.7 %	10.5 %	12.6 %

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

**Recent Events**

During the three months ended December 28, 2024, our Hawthorne segment continued to experience decreased sales volume. This was partially attributable to an oversupply of cannabis, which has led to a prolonged period of lower cannabis wholesale prices and reduced indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivation. The oversupply has been driven by increased licensing activity across the U.S. and significant capital investment in the cannabis production marketplace over the past several years, as well as inconsistent enforcement of regulations. We expect that the oversupply of cannabis will continue to adversely impact our Hawthorne segment. If the oversupply of cannabis persists longer, or is more significant than we expect, our results of operations could be materially and adversely impacted for a longer period and to a greater extent than we currently anticipate.

During fiscal 2024, our Hawthorne segment discontinued distribution of other companies' products in order to shift its focus solely to marketing, innovating and supporting its portfolio of Signature brands, including General Hydroponics®, Gavita®, Botanicare®, Gro Pro®, Mother Earth®, Grower's Edge®, HydroLogic Purification System® and CYCO®. We expect the discontinuation of sales of other companies' products will result in lower sales volume when compared to historical periods, but will enable continued optimization of Hawthorne's operations and improvement of its profitability.

We continue to monitor the impacts of macroeconomic conditions, including elevated interest rates and the impact of inflationary pressures on input costs and consumer behavior; as well as geopolitical uncertainty, including the duration and resolution of ongoing conflicts, potential escalation of tensions and global supply chain disruptions. The impact that these events and conditions will have on our operational and financial performance will depend on future developments, which are difficult to predict. For more information about factors that could impact our business, refer to "ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS" in the 2024 Annual Report.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following table sets forth the components of earnings as a percentage of net sales for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023:

	December 28, 2024	% of Net Sales	December 30, 2023	% of Net Sales
Net sales	\$ 416.8	100.0 %	\$ 410.4	100.0 %
Cost of sales	316.9	76.0	354.0	86.3
Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other	5.1	1.2	(5.8)	(1.4)
Gross margin	94.8	22.7	62.2	15.2
Operating expenses:				
Selling, general and administrative	124.8	29.9	114.8	28.0
Impairment, restructuring and other	16.5	4.0	(7.1)	(1.7)
Other expense, net	4.5	1.1	1.8	0.4
Loss from operations	(51.0)	(12.2)	(47.3)	(11.5)
Equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates	9.9	2.4	22.5	5.5
Interest expense	33.7	8.1	42.8	10.4
Other non-operating expense, net	1.3	0.3	1.6	0.4
Loss before income taxes	(95.9)	(23.0)	(114.2)	(27.8)
Income tax benefit	(26.4)	(6.3)	(33.7)	(8.2)
Net loss	\$ (69.5)	(16.7)%	\$ (80.5)	(19.6)%

The sum of the components may not equal due to rounding.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

**Net Sales**

Net sales for the three months ended December 28, 2024 were \$416.8, an increase of 1.6% from net sales of \$410.4 for the three months ended December 30, 2023. Factors contributing to the change in net sales are outlined in the following table:

	Three Months Ended December 28, 2024
Volume and mix	2.6 %
Pricing	(0.8)
Foreign exchange rates	(0.2)
Change in net sales	1.6 %

The increase in net sales for the three months ended December 28, 2024 as compared to the three months ended December 30, 2023 was primarily driven by:

- increased sales volume of 10.5%, comprised of the net impact of higher volume in our U.S. Consumer segment driven by soils, controls and plant food products, partially offset by lower volume in our Hawthorne segment driven by lighting, growing environment, growing media and hardware products; and
- increased net sales associated with the Roundup® marketing agreement;
- partially offset by other decreases of 7.9% included within “volume and mix” related to nonrecurring fiscal 2024 sales of bulk raw materials and AeroGarden® products in our U.S. Consumer segment and the discontinuation of sales of other companies’ products in our Hawthorne segment; and
- decreased pricing, primarily driven by additional investments in consumer activation activities in our U.S. Consumer segment.

**Cost of Sales**

The following table shows the major components of cost of sales:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Materials	\$ 151.0	\$ 175.8
Distribution and warehousing	78.1	83.3
Manufacturing labor and overhead	65.8	75.8
Costs associated with Roundup® marketing agreement	22.0	19.1
Cost of sales	316.9	354.0
Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other	5.1	(5.8)
	\$ 322.0	\$ 348.2

Factors contributing to the change in cost of sales are outlined in the following table:

	Three Months Ended December 28, 2024
Volume, mix and other	\$ (24.8)
Material cost changes	(14.5)
Foreign exchange rates	(0.6)
Costs associated with Roundup® marketing agreement	2.8
	(37.1)
Impairment, restructuring and other	10.9
Change in cost of sales	\$ (26.2)

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The decrease in cost of sales for the three months ended December 28, 2024 as compared to the three months ended December 30, 2023 was primarily driven by:

- lower material costs in our U.S. Consumer segment;
- lower sales volume in our Hawthorne segment; and
- lower warehousing and transportation costs included within “volume, mix and other” in our U.S. Consumer and Hawthorne segments;
- partially offset by higher sales volume in our U.S. Consumer segment;
- an increase in impairment, restructuring and other charges; and
- an increase in costs associated with the Roundup® marketing agreement.

**Gross Margin**

As a percentage of net sales, our gross margin rate was 22.7% and 15.2% for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively. Factors contributing to the change in gross margin rate are outlined in the following table:

	<b>Three Months Ended December 28, 2024</b>
Volume, mix and other	7.5 %
Material costs	3.4
Roundup® commissions and reimbursements	0.1
Pricing	(0.7)
	10.3
Impairment, restructuring and other	(2.8)
Change in gross margin rate	7.5 %

The increase in gross margin rate for the three months ended December 28, 2024 as compared to the three months ended December 30, 2023 was primarily driven by:

- lower material costs in our U.S. Consumer segment;
- favorable mix associated with our U.S. Consumer and Hawthorne segments;
- favorable leverage of fixed costs, included within “volume, mix and other,” driven by higher sales volume in our U.S. Consumer segment; and
- lower warehousing and transportation costs included within “volume, mix and other” in our U.S. Consumer and Hawthorne segments;
- partially offset by decreased pricing, primarily driven by additional investments in consumer activation activities in our U.S. Consumer segment; and
- an increase in impairment, restructuring and other charges.

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***Selling, General and Administrative Expenses***

The following table sets forth the components of selling, general and administrative expenses (“SG&A”):

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Advertising	\$ 17.6	\$ 17.4
Share-based compensation	12.6	13.4
Research and development	7.6	8.4
Amortization of intangibles	3.0	3.5
Other selling, general and administrative	84.0	72.1
	<u>\$ 124.8</u>	<u>\$ 114.8</u>

SG&A increased \$10.0, or 8.7%, during the three months ended December 28, 2024 compared to the three months ended December 30, 2023. Other SG&A increased \$11.9, or 16.5%, driven by higher short-term variable cash incentive compensation expense and other associate-related costs.

***Impairment, Restructuring and Other***

Activity described herein is classified within the “Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other” and “Impairment, restructuring and other” lines in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. The following table details impairment, restructuring and other charges (recoveries) for each of the periods presented:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other:		
Restructuring and other charges (recoveries), net	\$ 1.8	\$ (5.8)
Right-of-use asset impairments	1.7	—
Property, plant and equipment impairments	1.6	—
Operating expenses—impairment, restructuring and other:		
Restructuring and other charges (recoveries), net	9.6	(7.1)
Loss on exchange of convertible debt investment	7.0	—
Total impairment, restructuring and other charges (recoveries), net	<u>\$ 21.7</u>	<u>\$ (12.9)</u>

During the three months ended December 28, 2024, we recorded executive severance charges of \$9.5 in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

During the three months ended December 28, 2024, we recorded a non-cash loss of \$7.0 in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations related to the exchange of our convertible debt investment in RIV Capital for non-voting exchangeable shares of Consortium.

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During fiscal 2022, we began implementing a series of Company-wide organizational changes and initiatives intended to create operational and management-level efficiencies. As part of this restructuring initiative, we reduced the size of our supply chain network, reduced staffing levels and implemented other cost-reduction initiatives. We also accelerated the reduction of certain Hawthorne inventory, primarily lighting, growing environments and hardware products, to reduce on hand inventory to align with the reduced network capacity. During the three months ended December 28, 2024, we incurred costs of \$1.4 in our U.S. Consumer segment and \$3.7 in our Hawthorne segment associated with this restructuring initiative in the “Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. During the three months ended December 30, 2023, we recorded recoveries of \$3.7 associated with this restructuring initiative, primarily related to the sale of certain previously-reserved inventory at amounts in excess of estimated net realizable value, partially offset by employee termination benefits and facility closure costs. We incurred costs of \$2.0 in our U.S. Consumer segment and recorded recoveries of \$7.7 in our Hawthorne segment in the “Cost of sales—impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations during the three months ended December 30, 2023. We recorded recoveries of \$0.8 in our U.S. Consumer segment and incurred costs of \$0.3 in our Hawthorne segment and \$2.4 at Corporate in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations during the three months ended December 30, 2023. Costs incurred since the inception of this restructuring initiative through December 28, 2024 were \$300.9 for our Hawthorne segment, \$59.8 for our U.S. Consumer segment, \$2.9 for our Other segment and \$25.1 for Corporate.

During the three months ended December 30, 2023, we recorded a gain of \$12.1 in the “Impairment, restructuring and other” line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations associated with a payment received in resolution of a dispute with the former ownership group of a business that was acquired in fiscal 2022. This payment was classified as an operating activity in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

***Other Expense, net***

Other expense is comprised of activities such as the discount on sales of accounts receivable under the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement, royalty income from the licensing of certain of our brand names and foreign exchange transaction gains and losses. Other expense was \$4.5 and \$1.8 for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively. The increase in expense during the three months ended December 28, 2024 was primarily due to higher sales of accounts receivable under the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement.

***Loss from Operations***

Loss from operations was \$51.0 for the three months ended December 28, 2024, an increase of 7.8% compared to \$47.3 for the three months ended December 30, 2023. The increase was primarily driven by higher impairment, restructuring and other charges, higher SG&A and higher other expense, partially offset by higher net sales and an increase in gross margin rate.

***Equity in Loss of Unconsolidated Affiliates***

Equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates associated with Bonnie Plants, LLC was \$9.9 and \$22.5 during the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively. We anticipated a net loss for Bonnie Plants, LLC in the first quarter due to the seasonal nature of its business, in which sales are heavily weighted to the spring and summer selling periods. During the three months ended December 30, 2023, equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates also included a pre-tax impairment charge of \$10.4 associated with our investment in Bonnie Plants, LLC.

***Interest Expense***

Interest expense was \$33.7 for the three months ended December 28, 2024, a decrease of 21.3% compared to \$42.8 for the three months ended December 30, 2023. The decrease was driven by lower average borrowings of \$390.1 and a decrease in our weighted average interest rate, net of the impact of interest rate swaps, of 50 basis points. The decrease in average borrowings was driven by our focus on using available cash flow to reduce our debt as well as higher sales of accounts receivable under the amended Master Receivables Purchase Agreement. The decrease in our weighted average interest rate was primarily driven by lower borrowing rates under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement.

***Income Tax Benefit***

The effective tax rates for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023 were 27.5% and 29.5%, respectively. The effective tax rate used for interim purposes is based on our best estimate of factors impacting the effective tax rate for the full fiscal year. Factors affecting the estimated effective tax rate include assumptions as to income by jurisdiction (domestic and foreign), the availability and utilization of tax credits and the existence of elements of income and expense that may not be taxable or deductible. The estimated effective tax rate is subject to revision in later interim periods and at fiscal year-end as facts and circumstances change during the course of the fiscal year. There can be no assurance that the effective tax rate estimated for interim financial reporting purposes will approximate the effective tax rate determined at fiscal year-end.

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**Net Loss**

Net loss was \$69.5, or \$1.21 per diluted share, for the three months ended December 28, 2024 compared to \$80.5, or \$1.42 per diluted share, for the three months ended December 30, 2023. The decrease was driven by higher net sales, an increase in gross margin rate, lower equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates and lower interest expense, partially offset by higher impairment, restructuring and other charges, higher SG&A, higher other expense and lower income tax benefit.

Diluted average Common Shares used in the diluted net loss per common share calculation for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023 were 57.3 million and 56.7 million, respectively, which excluded potential Common Shares of 1.5 million and 0.5 million, respectively, because the effect of their inclusion would be anti-dilutive as we incurred a net loss for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023. The increase in diluted average Common Shares was primarily the result of the exercise and issuance of share-based compensation awards.

**SEGMENT RESULTS**

The performance of each reportable segment is evaluated based on several factors, including income (loss) before income taxes, amortization, impairment, restructuring and other charges ("Segment Profit (Loss)"), which is a non-GAAP financial measure. Senior management uses Segment Profit (Loss) to evaluate segment performance because they believe this measure is indicative of performance trends and the overall earnings potential of each segment.

The following table sets forth net sales by segment:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
U.S. Consumer	\$ 340.9	\$ 306.7
Hawthorne	52.1	80.1
Other	23.8	23.6
Consolidated	<u>\$ 416.8</u>	<u>\$ 410.4</u>

The following table sets forth Segment Profit (Loss) as well as a reconciliation to loss before income taxes, the most directly comparable GAAP measure:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
U.S. Consumer	\$ 10.0	\$ (15.5)
Hawthorne	1.7	(9.7)
Other	(3.1)	(5.0)
Total Segment Profit (Loss) (Non-GAAP)	8.6	(30.2)
Corporate	(34.8)	(26.0)
Intangible asset amortization	(3.1)	(4.0)
Impairment, restructuring and other	(21.7)	12.9
Equity in loss of unconsolidated affiliates	(9.9)	(22.5)
Interest expense	(33.7)	(42.8)
Other non-operating expense, net	(1.3)	(1.6)
Loss before income taxes (GAAP)	<u>\$ (95.9)</u>	<u>\$ (114.2)</u>

**U.S. Consumer**

U.S. Consumer segment net sales were \$340.9 in the first quarter of fiscal 2025, an increase of 11.2% from first quarter of fiscal 2024 net sales of \$306.7. The increase was driven by higher sales volume of 17.9%, partially offset by a decrease of 5.9% due to nonrecurring fiscal 2024 sales of bulk raw materials and AeroGarden® products, and decreased pricing of 0.8% due to additional investments in consumer activation activities. The increase in sales volume was driven by soils, controls and plant food products.

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U.S. Consumer Segment Profit was \$10.0 in the first quarter of fiscal 2025, an increase from first quarter of fiscal 2024 Segment Loss of \$15.5. The increase was due to higher net sales and a higher gross margin rate, partially offset by higher SG&A, and higher other expense driven by the discount on sales of accounts receivable.

**Hawthorne**

Hawthorne segment net sales were \$52.1 in the first quarter of fiscal 2025, a decrease of 35.0% from first quarter of fiscal 2024 net sales of \$80.1. The decrease was driven by the discontinuation of sales of other companies' products of 17.4%, lower sales volume of 16.2% and decreased pricing of 1.4%. The decrease in sales volume was driven by lighting, growing environment, growing media and hardware products.

Hawthorne Segment Profit was \$1.7 in the first quarter of fiscal 2025, an increase from first quarter of fiscal 2024 Segment Loss of \$9.7. The increase was driven by a higher gross margin rate and lower SG&A, partially offset by lower net sales.

**Other**

Other segment net sales were \$23.8 in the first quarter of fiscal 2025, an increase of 0.8% from the first quarter of fiscal 2024 net sales of \$23.6. The increase was driven by higher sales volume of 3.8% and increased pricing of 0.4%, partially offset by unfavorable foreign exchange rates of 3.4%.

Other Segment Loss was \$3.1 in the first quarter of fiscal 2025, a decrease from first quarter of fiscal 2024 Segment Loss of \$5.0. The decrease was driven by a higher gross margin rate.

**Corporate**

Corporate expenses were \$34.8 in the first quarter of fiscal 2025, an increase of 33.8% from first quarter of fiscal 2024 expenses of \$26.0. The increase was driven by higher short-term variable incentive compensation expense and other associate-related costs.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

The following table summarizes cash activities:

	Three Months Ended	
	December 28, 2024	December 30, 2023
Net cash used in operating activities	\$ (445.3)	\$ (343.2)
Net cash used in investing activities	(23.3)	(53.2)
Net cash provided by financing activities	407.7	374.2

**Operating Activities**

Cash used in operating activities totaled \$445.3 for the three months ended December 28, 2024, an increase of \$102.1 compared to \$343.2 for the three months ended December 30, 2023. This increase was driven by higher inventory production, the timing of accounts receivable sales, higher short-term variable cash incentive compensation payments and higher SG&A, partially offset by higher gross margin and lower interest payments. Accounts receivable sale timing is driven by the fact that the Master Receivable Purchasing Agreement was first entered into during the three months ended December 30, 2023.

**Investing Activities**

Cash used in investing activities totaled \$23.3 for the three months ended December 28, 2024, a decrease of \$29.9 compared to \$53.2 for the three months ended December 30, 2023. Cash used for investments in property, plant and equipment during the first three months of fiscal 2025 and 2024 was \$29.3 and \$37.9, respectively, driven by the timing of spending on capital projects. During the three months ended December 30, 2023, we acquired an additional equity interest in Bonnie Plants, LLC for \$21.4. During the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, we had other investing cash inflows of \$6.0 and \$6.1, respectively, primarily associated with currency forward contracts.

### ***Financing Activities***

Cash provided by financing activities totaled \$407.7 for the three months ended December 28, 2024 compared to \$374.2 for the three months ended December 30, 2023. During the three months ended December 28, 2024, we had net borrowings on our debt instruments of \$464.8 due to our seasonal working capital build. We also paid dividends of \$39.2 and repurchased Common Shares for \$15.6 (which represents cash paid to tax authorities to satisfy statutory income tax withholding obligations related to share-based compensation). During the three months ended December 30, 2023, we had net borrowings on our debt instruments of \$410.2, paid dividends of \$37.4 and repurchased Common Shares for \$3.1 (which represents cash paid to tax authorities to satisfy statutory income tax withholding obligations related to share-based compensation).

### ***Accounts Receivable Sales***

On October 27, 2023, we entered into the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement, under which we could sell up to \$600.0 of available and eligible outstanding customer accounts receivable generated by sales to four specified customers. On September 1, 2024, we amended the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement to permit us to sell up to \$750.0 of available and eligible outstanding customer accounts receivable generated by sales to five specified customers. The agreement is uncommitted and expires on September 1, 2025. Transactions under the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement are accounted for as sales of accounts receivable, and the receivables sold are removed from the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at the time of the sales transaction. Proceeds received from the sales of accounts receivable are classified as operating cash flows and collections of previously sold accounts receivable not yet submitted to the buyer are classified as financing cash flows in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. We record the discount on sales in the "Other expense, net" line in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations. At December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, net receivables derecognized were \$236.7, \$140.1 and \$186.6, respectively. During the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, proceeds from the sale of receivables under the Master Receivables Purchase Agreement totaled \$274.0 and \$199.6, respectively, and the total discount recorded on sales was \$3.3 and \$2.2, respectively.

### ***Supplier Finance Program***

We have an agreement to provide a supplier finance program which facilitates participating suppliers' ability to finance our payment obligations with a designated third-party financial institution. Participating suppliers may, at their sole discretion, elect to finance our payment obligations prior to their scheduled due dates at a discounted price to the participating financial institution. Our obligations to our suppliers, including amounts due and scheduled payment dates, are not impacted by suppliers' decisions to finance amounts under this arrangement. The payment terms that we negotiate with our suppliers are consistent, regardless of whether a supplier participates in the program. Our current payment terms with a majority of our suppliers generally range from 30 to 60 days, which we deem to be commercially reasonable. Our outstanding payment obligations under our supplier finance program were \$27.1, \$30.8 and \$12.5 at December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, respectively, and are recorded within accounts payable in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. The associated payments were \$73.6 and \$69.8 for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively, and are classified as operating activities in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

### ***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

Our cash and cash equivalents were held in cash depository accounts with major financial institutions around the world or invested in high-quality, short-term liquid investments having original maturities of three months or less. The cash and cash equivalents balances of \$9.8, \$10.4 and \$71.6 as of December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, respectively, included \$6.1, \$4.0 and \$15.9, respectively, held by controlled foreign corporations. As of December 28, 2024, we maintain our assertion of indefinite reinvestment of the earnings of all material foreign subsidiaries.

### ***Borrowing Agreements***

#### **Credit Facilities**

Our primary sources of liquidity are cash generated by operations and borrowings under our credit facilities, which are guaranteed by substantially all of Scotts Miracle-Gro's domestic subsidiaries. On April 8, 2022, we entered into the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement, providing the Company and certain of its subsidiaries with five-year senior secured loan facilities in the aggregate principal amount of \$2,500.0, comprised of a revolving credit facility of \$1,500.0 and a term loan in the original principal amount of \$1,000.0. The Sixth A&R Credit Agreement will terminate on April 8, 2027. The Sixth A&R Credit Facilities are available for the issuance of letters of credit up to \$100.0. The terms of the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement include customary representations and warranties, affirmative and negative covenants, financial covenants, and events of default.

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Under the terms of the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement, loans bear interest, at our election, at a rate per annum equal to either (i) the Alternate Base Rate plus the Applicable Spread (each, as defined in the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement) or (ii) the Adjusted Term SOFR Rate for the Interest Period in effect for such borrowing plus the Applicable Spread (all as defined in the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement). Swingline Loans bear interest at the applicable Swingline Rate set forth in the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. Interest rates for other select non-U.S. dollar borrowings, including borrowings denominated in euro, Pounds Sterling and Canadian dollars, are based on separate interest rate indices, as set forth in the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement.

On June 8, 2022, we entered into Amendment No. 1 to the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. Amendment No. 1 increased the maximum permitted leverage ratio for the quarterly leverage covenant until April 1, 2024. Amendment No. 1 also increased the interest rate applicable to borrowings under the revolving credit facility by 35 bps and the term loan facility by 50 bps, and increased the annual facility fee rate on the revolving credit facility by 15 bps, in each case, when our quarterly-tested leverage ratio exceeded 4.75.

On July 31, 2023, we entered into Amendment No. 2 to the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. Amendment No. 2 (i) reduces the revolving loan commitments by \$250.0; (ii) increases the maximum permitted leverage ratio for the quarterly leverage covenant during the Leverage Adjustment Period; (iii) replaces the interest coverage covenant with a fixed charge coverage covenant; (iv) increases the interest rate applicable to borrowings under the revolving credit facility and the term loan facility by 25 bps for each existing pricing tier and adds a pricing tier applicable to periods when the leverage ratio exceeds 6.00; (v) limits the amount of certain incremental investments, loans and advances to \$25.0 during the Leverage Adjustment Period; and (vi) adds our intellectual property (subject to certain exceptions) as collateral to secure our obligations under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. Additionally, Amendment No. 2 limits our ability to declare or pay any discretionary dividends, distributions or other restricted payments during the Leverage Adjustment Period to only the payment of (i) regularly scheduled cash dividends to holders of our Common Shares in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$225.0 per fiscal year and (ii) other dividends, distributions or restricted payments in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$25.0. Amendment No. 2 also subjects our ability to make certain investments to pro forma compliance with certain leverage levels specified in Amendment No. 2. Pursuant to Amendment No. 2, the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement is secured by (i) a perfected first priority security interest in all of the accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and intellectual property (subject to certain exceptions) of Scotts Miracle-Gro and certain of its domestic subsidiaries and (ii) the pledge of all of the capital stock of certain of Scotts Miracle-Gro's domestic subsidiaries and a portion of the capital stock of certain of its foreign subsidiaries.

At December 28, 2024, we had letters of credit outstanding in the aggregate principal amount of \$83.1, and had \$691.3 of borrowing availability under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. The weighted average interest rates on average borrowings under the credit facilities, excluding the impact of interest rate swaps, were 8.5% and 9.1% for the three months ended December 28, 2024 and December 30, 2023, respectively.

The Sixth A&R Credit Agreement contains, among other obligations, an affirmative covenant regarding our leverage ratio determined as of the end of each of our fiscal quarters calculated as average total indebtedness, divided by our Adjusted EBITDA. Pursuant to Amendment No. 2, the maximum permitted leverage ratio is (i) 5.50 for the first quarter of fiscal 2025, (ii) 5.25 for the second quarter of fiscal 2025, (iii) 5.00 for the third quarter of fiscal 2025, (iv) 4.75 for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025 and (v) 4.50 for the first quarter of fiscal 2026 and thereafter. Our leverage ratio was 4.52 at December 28, 2024. Pursuant to Amendment No. 2, the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement also contains an affirmative covenant regarding our fixed charge coverage ratio determined as of the end of each of our fiscal quarters, calculated as Adjusted EBITDA minus capital expenditures and expense for taxes paid in cash, divided by the sum of interest expense plus restricted payments, as described in Amendment No. 2. The minimum required fixed charge coverage ratio is 1.00. Our fixed charge coverage ratio was 1.38 for the twelve months ended December 28, 2024.

As of December 28, 2024, we were in compliance with all applicable covenants in the agreements governing our debt. Based on our projections of financial performance for the twelve-month period subsequent to the date of the filing of this Form 10-Q, we expect to remain in compliance with the financial covenants under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement. However, our assessment of our ability to meet our future obligations is inherently subjective, judgment-based, and susceptible to change based on future events. A covenant violation may result in an event of default. Such a default would allow the lenders under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement to accelerate the maturity of the indebtedness thereunder and would also implicate cross-default provisions under the Senior Notes and cause the Senior Notes to become due and payable at that time. As of December 28, 2024, our indebtedness under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement and Senior Notes was \$2,688.1. We do not have sufficient cash on hand or available liquidity that can be utilized to repay these outstanding amounts in the event of default.

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As part of our contingency planning to address potential future circumstances that could result in noncompliance, we have contemplated alternative plans including additional restructuring activities to reduce operating expenses and certain cash management strategies that are within our control. Additionally, we have contemplated alternative plans that are subject to market conditions and not in our control, including, among others, discussions with our lenders to amend the terms of our financial covenants under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement and generating cash by completing other financing transactions, which may include issuing equity. There is no assurance that we will be successful in implementing these alternative plans.

**Senior Notes**

On December 15, 2016, Scotts Miracle-Gro issued \$250.0 aggregate principal amount of 5.250% Senior Notes due 2026. The 5.250% Senior Notes represent general unsecured senior obligations and rank equal in right of payment with our existing and future unsecured senior debt. The 5.250% Senior Notes have interest payment dates of June 15 and December 15 of each year.

On October 22, 2019, Scotts Miracle-Gro issued \$450.0 aggregate principal amount of 4.500% Senior Notes due 2029. The 4.500% Senior Notes represent general unsecured senior obligations and rank equal in right of payment with our existing and future unsecured senior debt. The 4.500% Senior Notes have interest payment dates of April 15 and October 15 of each year.

On March 17, 2021, Scotts Miracle-Gro issued \$500.0 aggregate principal amount of 4.000% Senior Notes due 2031. The 4.000% Senior Notes represent general unsecured senior obligations and rank equal in right of payment with our existing and future unsecured senior debt. The 4.000% Senior Notes have interest payment dates of April 1 and October 1 of each year.

On August 13, 2021, Scotts Miracle-Gro issued \$400.0 aggregate principal amount of 4.375% Senior Notes due 2032. The 4.375% Senior Notes represent general unsecured senior obligations and rank equal in right of payment with our existing and future unsecured senior debt. The 4.375% Senior Notes have interest payment dates of February 1 and August 1 of each year.

Substantially all of Scotts Miracle-Gro's directly and indirectly owned domestic subsidiaries serve as guarantors of the 5.250% Senior Notes, the 4.500% Senior Notes, the 4.000% Senior Notes and the 4.375% Senior Notes.

The Senior Notes contain an affirmative covenant regarding our interest coverage ratio determined as of the end of each of our fiscal quarters, calculated as Adjusted EBITDA divided by interest expense excluding costs related to refinancings. The minimum required interest coverage ratio is 2.00. Our interest coverage ratio was 3.95 for the twelve months ended December 28, 2024.

**Interest Rate Swap Agreements**

We enter into interest rate swap agreements with major financial institutions that effectively convert a portion of our variable rate debt to a fixed rate. Interest payments made between the effective date and expiration date are hedged by the swap agreements. Swap agreements that were hedging interest payments as of December 28, 2024, December 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024 had a maximum total U.S. dollar equivalent notional amount of \$450.0, \$700.0 and \$450.0, respectively. The notional amount, effective date, expiration date and rate of each of the swap agreements outstanding at December 28, 2024 are shown in the table below:

Notional Amount (\$)	Effective Date (a)	Expiration Date	Fixed Rate
150	6/7/2023	4/7/2027	3.37 %
50	6/7/2023	4/7/2027	3.34 %
100 <sup>(b)</sup>	11/20/2023	3/22/2027	4.74 %
150 <sup>(b)</sup>	9/20/2024	9/20/2029	4.25 %

(a) The effective date refers to the date on which interest payments are first hedged by the applicable swap agreement.

(b) Notional amount adjusts in accordance with a specified seasonal schedule. This represents the maximum notional amount at any point in time.

**Availability and Use of Cash**

We believe that our cash flows from operations and borrowings under our agreements described herein will be sufficient to meet debt service, capital expenditures and working capital needs for the foreseeable future. However, we cannot ensure that our business will generate sufficient cash flow from operations or that future borrowings will be available under our borrowing agreements in amounts sufficient to pay indebtedness or fund other liquidity needs. Actual results of operations will depend on numerous factors, many of which are beyond our control as further discussed in the 2024 Annual Report, under “ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS — Risks Related to Our M&A, Lending and Financing Activities — Our indebtedness could limit our flexibility and adversely affect our financial condition.”

**Financial Disclosures About Guarantors and Issuers of Guaranteed Securities**

The 5.250% Senior Notes, 4.500% Senior Notes, 4.000% Senior Notes and 4.375% Senior Notes were issued by Scotts Miracle-Gro on December 15, 2016, October 22, 2019, March 17, 2021 and August 13, 2021, respectively. The Senior Notes are guaranteed by certain consolidated domestic subsidiaries of Scotts Miracle-Gro (collectively, the “Guarantors”) and, therefore, we report summarized financial information in accordance with SEC Regulation S-X, Rule 13-01, “Guarantors and Issuers of Guaranteed Securities Registered or Being Registered.”

The guarantees are “full and unconditional,” as those terms are used in Regulation S-X, Rule 3-10(b)(3), except that a Guarantor’s guarantee will be released in certain circumstances set forth in the indentures governing the Senior Notes, such as: (i) upon any sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Guarantor (including by way of merger or consolidation) to any person other than Scotts Miracle-Gro or any “restricted subsidiary” under the applicable indenture; (ii) if the Guarantor merges with and into Scotts Miracle-Gro, with Scotts Miracle-Gro surviving such merger; (iii) if the Guarantor is designated an “unrestricted subsidiary” in accordance with the applicable indenture or otherwise ceases to be a “restricted subsidiary” (including by way of liquidation or dissolution) in a transaction permitted by such indenture; (iv) upon legal or covenant defeasance; (v) at the election of Scotts Miracle-Gro following the Guarantor’s release as a guarantor under the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement, except a release by or as a result of the repayment of the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement; or (vi) if the Guarantor ceases to be a “restricted subsidiary” and the Guarantor is not otherwise required to provide a guarantee of the Senior Notes pursuant to the applicable indenture.

Our foreign subsidiaries and certain of our domestic subsidiaries are not guarantors (collectively, the “Non-Guarantors”) of the Senior Notes. Payments on the Senior Notes are only required to be made by Scotts Miracle-Gro and the Guarantors. As a result, no payments are required to be made from the assets of the Non-Guarantors, unless those assets are transferred by dividend or otherwise to Scotts Miracle-Gro or a Guarantor. In the event of a bankruptcy, insolvency, liquidation or reorganization of any of the Non-Guarantors, holders of their indebtedness, including their trade creditors and other obligations, will be entitled to payment of their claims from the assets of the Non-Guarantors before any assets are made available for distribution to Scotts Miracle-Gro or the Guarantors. As a result, the Senior Notes are effectively subordinated to all the liabilities of the Non-Guarantors.

The guarantees may be subject to review under federal bankruptcy laws or relevant state fraudulent conveyance or fraudulent transfer laws. In certain circumstances, the court could void the guarantee, subordinate the amounts owing under the guarantee, or take other actions detrimental to the holders of the Senior Notes.

As a general matter, value is given for a transfer or an obligation if, in exchange for the transfer or obligation, property is transferred or a valid antecedent debt is satisfied. A court would likely find that a Guarantor did not receive reasonably equivalent value or fair consideration for its guarantee to the extent such Guarantor did not obtain a reasonably equivalent benefit from the issuance of the Senior Notes.

The measure of insolvency varies depending upon the law of the jurisdiction that is being applied. Regardless of the measure being applied, a court could determine that a Guarantor was insolvent on the date the guarantee was issued, so that payments to the holders of the Senior Notes would constitute a preference, fraudulent transfer or conveyances on other grounds. If a guarantee is voided as a fraudulent conveyance or is found to be unenforceable for any other reason, the holders of the Senior Notes will not have a claim against the Guarantor.

Each guarantee contains a provision intended to limit the Guarantor’s liability to the maximum amount that it could incur without causing the incurrence of obligations under its guarantee to be a fraudulent conveyance. However, there can be no assurance as to what standard a court will apply in making a determination of the maximum liability of each Guarantor. Moreover, this provision may not be effective to protect the guarantees from being voided under fraudulent conveyance laws. There is a possibility that the entire guarantee may be set aside, in which case the entire liability may be extinguished.

**THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY**  
(Dollars in millions, except per share data)

The following tables present summarized financial information on a combined basis for Scotts Miracle-Gro and the Guarantors. Transactions between Scotts Miracle-Gro and the Guarantors have been eliminated and the summarized financial information does not reflect investments of the Scotts Miracle-Gro and the Guarantors in the Non-Guarantor subsidiaries.

	December 28, 2024	September 30, 2024
Current assets	\$ 1,157.6	\$ 838.4
Non-current assets <sup>(a)</sup>	1,822.5	1,805.1
Current liabilities	629.0	667.3
Non-current liabilities	2,927.8	2,471.6

(a) Includes amounts due from Non-Guarantor subsidiaries of \$61.6 and \$49.5, respectively.

	Three Months Ended December 28, 2024	Year Ended September 30, 2024
Net sales	\$ 379.2	\$ 3,248.6
Gross margin	92.5	809.5
Net loss <sup>(a)</sup>	(65.1)	(16.1)

(a) Includes intercompany income (expense) from Non-Guarantor subsidiaries of \$(0.4) and \$12.5, respectively.

### **Judicial and Administrative Proceedings**

We are party to various pending judicial and administrative proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business, including, among others, proceedings based on accidents or product liability claims and alleged violations of environmental laws. We have reviewed these pending judicial and administrative proceedings, including the probable outcomes, reasonably anticipated costs and expenses, and the availability and limits of our insurance coverage, and have established what we believe to be appropriate accruals. We believe that our assessment of contingencies is reasonable and that the related accruals, in the aggregate, are adequate; however, there can be no assurance that future quarterly or annual operating results will not be materially affected by these proceedings, whether as a result of adverse outcomes or as a result of significant defense costs.

### **REGULATORY MATTERS**

We are subject to local, state, federal and foreign environmental protection laws and regulations with respect to our business operations and believe we are operating in substantial compliance, or taking actions aimed at ensuring compliance, with such laws and regulations. We are involved in several legal actions with various governmental agencies related to environmental matters. While it is difficult to quantify the potential financial impact of actions involving these environmental matters, particularly remediation costs at waste disposal sites and future capital expenditures for environmental control equipment, in the opinion of management, the ultimate liability arising from such environmental matters, taking into account established accruals, is not expected to have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. However, there can be no assurance that the resolution of these matters will not materially affect our future quarterly or annual results of operations, financial condition or cash flows. Additional information on environmental matters affecting us is provided in the 2024 Annual Report, under "ITEM 1. BUSINESS — Regulatory Considerations" and "ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS."

### **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

Our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with GAAP. The preparation of financial statements and related disclosures in accordance with GAAP requires management to use judgment and make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. We evaluate our estimates on an ongoing basis. By their nature, these judgments are subject to uncertainty. We base our estimates on historical experience, current trends and other factors that we believe to be relevant under the circumstances at the time the estimate was made. Certain accounting estimates are particularly significant, including those related to revenue recognition and promotional allowances, income taxes and goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets.

We believe that our estimates, assumptions, and judgments are reasonable in that they were based on information available when the estimates, assumptions and judgments were made. However, because future events and their effects cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could differ materially from those implied by our assumptions and estimates.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Scotts Miracle-Gro reviews our critical accounting estimates on an ongoing basis, including those related to revenue recognition and promotional allowances, income taxes and goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. Our critical accounting estimates have not changed materially from those disclosed in the 2024 Annual Report.

### **ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

Market risks have not changed materially from those disclosed in the 2024 Annual Report.

### **ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

#### ***Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures***

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company (the “Registrant”) maintains “disclosure controls and procedures,” as such term is defined under Securities Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e), that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the Registrant’s Securities Exchange Act reports is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Registrant’s management, including its principal executive officer and its principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

With the participation of the principal executive officer and the principal financial officer of the Registrant, the Registrant’s management has evaluated the effectiveness of the Registrant’s disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), as of the end of the fiscal quarter covered by this Form 10-Q. Based upon that evaluation, the Registrant’s principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that the Registrant’s disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 28, 2024.

#### ***Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

No changes in the Registrant’s internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) occurred during the Registrant’s fiscal quarter ended December 28, 2024 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrant’s internal control over financial reporting.

## **PART II—OTHER INFORMATION**

### **ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

Reference is made to the legal proceedings that have been previously disclosed in Part I, Item 3 of the 2024 Annual Report. There have been no material developments to the pending legal proceedings set forth therein.

We are involved in other lawsuits and claims which arise in the normal course of our business including the initiation and defense of proceedings to protect intellectual property rights, advertising claims, securities matters and employment disputes. In our opinion, these claims individually and in the aggregate are not expected to have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

### **ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

The Company’s risk factors, as of December 28, 2024, have not materially changed from those described in Part I, Item 1A of the 2024 Annual Report.

#### **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This Form 10-Q, including the exhibits hereto and the information incorporated by reference herein, contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act which are subject to risks and uncertainties. Information regarding activities, events and developments that we expect or anticipate will or may occur in the future, including, but not limited to, information relating to our future growth and profitability targets and strategies designed to increase total shareholder value, are forward-looking statements based on management’s estimates, assumptions and projections. Forward-looking statements also include, but are not limited to, statements regarding our future economic and financial condition and results of operations, the plans and objectives of management and our assumptions regarding our performance and such plans and objectives, as well as the amount and timing of dividends and repurchases of our Common Shares or other uses of cash flows. Forward-looking statements generally can be identified through the use of words such as “guidance,” “outlook,” “projected,” “believe,” “target,” “predict,” “estimate,” “forecast,” “strategy,” “may,” “goal,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “plan,” “foresee,” “likely,” “will,” “should” and other similar words and variations.

Forward-looking statements in this Form 10-Q are predictions only and actual results could differ materially from management’s expectations due to a variety of factors, including those described in “ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS” in the 2024 Annual Report. All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons working on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by such risk factors and other cautionary statements that we make from time to time in our other SEC filings and public communications.

You should evaluate forward-looking statements in the context of these risks and uncertainties and are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements. These factors may not contain all of the factors that are important to you. We cannot assure you that we will realize the results or developments we expect or anticipate or, even if substantially realized, that they will result in the consequences or affect us or our operations in the way we expect. The forward-looking statements that we make in this Form 10-Q are based on management’s current views and assumptions regarding future events and speak only as of their dates. We disclaim any obligation to update developments of these risk factors or to announce publicly any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements that we make, or to make corrections to reflect future events or developments, except as required by law.

## ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

The payment of future dividends, if any, on the Common Shares will be determined by the Board of Directors in light of conditions then existing, including the Company’s earnings, financial condition and capital requirements, restrictions in financing agreements, business conditions and other factors. Amendment No. 2 to the Sixth A&R Credit Agreement limits the Company’s ability to declare or pay any discretionary dividends, distributions or other restricted payments to only the payment of (i) regularly scheduled cash dividends to holders of its Common Shares in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$225.0 million per fiscal year and (ii) other dividends, distributions or restricted payments in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$25.0 million.

The following table shows the purchases of Common Shares made by or on behalf of Scotts Miracle-Gro or any “affiliated purchaser” (as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Securities Exchange Act) of Scotts Miracle-Gro for each of the three fiscal months in the quarter ended December 28, 2024:

Period	Total Number of Common Shares Purchased (1)	Average Price Paid per Common Share (2)	Total Number of Common Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (3)	Approximate Dollar Value of Common Shares That May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (3)
October 1, 2024 through October 26, 2024	—	\$ —	—	N/A
October 27, 2024 through November 23, 2024	1,031	\$ 88.27	—	N/A
November 24, 2024 through December 28, 2024	2,504	\$ 72.76	—	N/A
Total	3,535	\$ 77.29	—	

- (1) All of the Common Shares purchased during the first quarter of fiscal 2025 were purchased in open market transactions. The Common Shares purchased during the quarter consisted of 3,535 Common Shares purchased by the trustee of the rabbi trust established by the Company as permitted pursuant to the terms of The Scotts Company LLC Executive Retirement Plan.
- (2) The average price paid per Common Share is calculated on a settlement basis and includes commissions.
- (3) The Company does not have an active repurchase program.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

None.

**ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

Not Applicable.

**ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION**

During the first quarter of fiscal 2025, no director or officer (as defined under Rule 16a-1 of the Securities Exchange Act) adopted or terminated any Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement or non Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement (in each case, as defined in Item 408).

**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

See Index to Exhibits at page 43 for a list of the exhibits included herewith.

THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY  
 QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q  
 FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 28, 2024

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Description	Incorporated by Reference			Filed Herewith
		Form	Exhibit	Filing Date	
10.1	<a href="#">Form of Fiscal Year 2024 Incentive RSU Award Agreement</a>	8-K	10.1	November 5, 2024	
10.2	<a href="#">Separation Agreement and Release of All Claims by and between The Scotts Company LLC and Matthew E. Garth</a>				X
31.1	<a href="#">Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certifications (Principal Executive Officer)</a>				X
31.2	<a href="#">Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certifications (Principal Financial Officer)</a>				X
32	<a href="#">Section 1350 Certifications (Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer)</a>				X
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema				X
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase				X
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase				X
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase				X
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase				X
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101)				X

SIGNATURES

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, thereunto duly authorized.

THE SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO COMPANY

Date: February 5, 2025

/s/ MARK J. SCHEIWER

Printed Name: Mark J. Scheiwer

Title: Interim Chief Financial Officer & Chief Accounting Officer



## SEPARATION AGREEMENT

## AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

*NOTICE: READ BEFORE YOU SIGN!*

*This agreement contains a RELEASE. We advise that you consult an ATTORNEY.*

THIS SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS (“Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between Matthew E. Garth (“Employee”) and The Scotts Company LLC (“Company”);

WHEREAS, Employee’s last day of employment with Company shall be December 31, 2024 (the “Termination Date”);

WHEREAS, Employee is covered as a Tier 1 Participant under the Company’s Executive Severance Plan, and the Company wishes to provide Severance Benefits, as provided herein, which are non-negotiable and are no less than the benefits Employee may otherwise be entitled to receive under the Executive Severance Plan in the event of an involuntary termination without Cause;

NOW THEREFORE, in exchange for and in consideration of the promises and covenants contained herein, along with other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is expressly acknowledged hereby, the parties agree as follows:

1. Severance Benefits. The parties agree that Employee has been separated from service for a reason covered by the Company’s Executive Severance Plan (and that receipt of this Agreement shall serve as a “Notice of Termination” as described therein) and, thus, Employee is entitled to the benefits that would otherwise be available under the Executive Severance Plan (and no other severance benefits) provided Employee satisfies the conditions of this Agreement, and then is only entitled to such benefits upon the Effective Date of this Agreement. The terms of the Executive Severance Plan are hereby incorporated by reference and any inconsistency between the terms of the Executive Severance Plan and this Agreement will be resolved in favor of the terms of the Executive Severance Plan. The Company agrees to provide Employee with the following (collectively, the “Severance Benefits”):

- (A) Severance Pay equal to a continuation of salary, at Employee’s regular base pay as of the Termination Date and as described under the Executive Severance Plan (the “Severance Pay”), payable in accordance with standard Company payroll procedures for 24 months (the “Severance Period”). The Severance Pay shall be subject to withholding and

deductions required by federal, state, and local taxing authorities with each installment. The Severance Pay shall begin to be paid on the first payroll date following the Effective Date of this Agreement; provided, however, that if this Agreement would allow the Effective Date to occur in either of two calendar years, then the first payment of the Severance Pay shall be made on the first payroll date that occurs in the second calendar year and that is after the Effective Date of this Agreement. For purposes of clarity, the first payment of Severance Pay will include a catch-up of any Severance Payments that would otherwise have been scheduled for payment prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement.

- (B) In lieu of outplacement services, Employee will receive a lump sum payment of \$30,000 (gross) (the “Miscellaneous Payment”), which shall be paid on the later of the first payroll date following the Effective Date of this Agreement or January 24, 2025.
- (C) Employee may be eligible to elect COBRA continuation benefits as to medical, dental and vision insurance benefits, and participation in the Employee Assistance Program as provided by applicable law, and the applicable plan. At the time payment is made pursuant to paragraph 1A, the Company shall also pay Employee an amount equal to the excess of the COBRA premium charged by the Company to terminated employees minus the premium Employee paid as an active employee for the benefits for which Employee was actively participating on the Termination Date, all calculated at the rates in effect at the Termination Date (a “Benefits Offset Payment”). This Benefits Offset Payment will be made for each month starting with the month following the Termination Date for the remainder of the Severance Period. This payment shall be subject to any applicable withholding and deductions required by federal, state, and local taxing authorities.
- (D) Employee will be eligible to receive a Bonus Amount equal to two times the Employees’ cash-based Target Annual Bonus Opportunity (base salary multiplied by incentive target percentage) for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. The Bonus Amount shall be paid in two equal installments. The first installment shall be paid on the first payroll date following the first-year anniversary of the Termination Date provided that Employee has continued to comply with both his covenants and obligations under this Agreement and any other postemployment obligations that he may have including any obligations under the noncompetition, nonsolicitation and confidentiality agreement that he signed, until the date of payment. The second installment shall be paid on the first payroll date following the second-year anniversary of the Termination Date provided that Employee has continued to comply with both his covenants and obligations under this Agreement and any other postemployment obligations that he may

have including any obligations under the noncompetition, nonsolicitation and confidentiality agreement that he signed, until the date of payment. This payment shall be subject to any applicable withholding and deductions required by federal, state, and local taxing authorities. For purposes of clarity, based on the Termination Date, Employee is not eligible to receive an incentive payment determined pursuant to the Company's Executive Incentive Plan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025.

- (E) In exchange for Employee's execution of this Agreement, the unvested Stock Options granted to Employee on February 3, 2023, November 16, 2023, and February 16, 2024, will vest on a prorated basis, calculated based on the number of days of active service between the respective grant date and the Termination Date over 1097 days. The resulting number of vested Stock Options will become exercisable on the Termination Date and will expire on the second anniversary of the Termination Date. With the exception of the change in vesting and the change in the expiration date of the Stock Options specified in this Section 1(E), the Stock Option grants referenced in this Section 1(E) remain subject to all terms and conditions of the applicable Award Agreements.
- (F) In exchange for Employee's execution of this Agreement, the unvested Performance Units (and their related dividend equivalents) granted to Employee on February 3, 2023 (the "2023 Performance Units"), will vest on a prorated basis as of the Normal Vesting Date, calculated based on the number of days of active service between the grant date and the Termination Date over 1097 days. For purposes of clarity the Company confirms that the performance criteria for the 2023 Performance Units have been satisfied as of the Termination Date. With the exception of the change in vesting specified in this Section 1(F), the 2023 Performance Units remain subject to all terms and conditions of the applicable Award Agreement. Also in exchange for Employee's execution of this Agreement, the Performance Units (and their related dividend equivalents) granted to Employee on February 16, 2024 (the "2024 Performance Units"), will vest and settle on a prorated basis as of the Normal Vesting Date (to the extent the underlying performance criteria specified in the applicable Award Agreement are satisfied), calculated based on the number of days of active service between the grant date and the Termination Date over 1097 days. With the exception of the change in vesting specified in this Section 1(F), the 2024 Performance Units remain subject to all terms and conditions of the applicable Award Agreement.
- (G) For purposes of clarity, the unvested Restricted Stock Units (and their related dividend equivalents) granted to Employee on December 1, 2022, will become one hundred percent (100%) vested and will settle in

accordance with the terms of the applicable Award Agreement to the extent not previously settled. The provisions in this Section 1(G) are not subject to Employee signing the Release and the applicable Award Agreement stands on its own.

- (H) For purposes of clarity, the unvested Stock Options granted to Employee on November 8, 2024, will be cancelled as of the Termination Date.
- (I) For purposes of clarity, the Company confirms that Employee will have no obligation to repay any portion of the relocation benefits paid by Company in connection with Employee's relocation to the central Ohio area, whether or not such expenses are otherwise subject to a Relocation Payback Agreement that was previously signed by Employee.

The Severance Benefits described herein shall be the only amounts paid by or on behalf of Company, and no interest on this amount shall be paid. Employee acknowledges and agrees that the benefits described above are no less than the benefits payable to Employee pursuant to the Executive Severance Plan and that he is not entitled to any other benefits under the Executive Severance Plan or any other plan or agreement, unless otherwise specified in this Agreement. Employee otherwise acknowledges hereby the receipt of all wages and other compensation or benefits to which Employee is entitled as a result of Employee's employment with Company through the Termination Date. In the event that Employee accepts re-employment with Scotts or any of its affiliates or accepts employment with any of Scotts' strategic or joint venture partners during the Severance Period, Scotts' obligation to continue paying or providing the Separation Benefits provided pursuant to Sections 1(A) through 1(F), as applicable, will cease as of the date such employment or re-employment begins. For purposes of clarity, the preceding sentence does not preclude Employee from continuing or accepting a board appointment with either a current or future affiliate, strategic or joint venture partner of Scotts.

Employee acknowledges and agrees that Company is under no obligation to pay Employee any Severance Benefits until Employee has agreed to be bound by a separate confidentiality, noncompetition, and nonsolicitation agreement, similar arrangement, and any other post-employment obligations under any Company policy with such obligations ("Post-Employment Obligations"). Company and Employee acknowledge that Employee entered into an Employee Confidentiality, Noncompetition, Nonsolicitation Agreement dated April 12, 2023, which satisfies the condition set forth in the preceding sentence. In addition, Employee acknowledges and agrees all Severance Benefits, except for an amount equal to one (1) salary continuation payment, paid must be repaid, and the payment of any future Severance Benefits, if any, will cease, in the event that the Company, after a reasonable inquiry, determines that Employee has breached any Post-Employment Obligations owed to the Company, and Employee has been provided notice of the breach and a reasonable opportunity to cure.

Finally, Employee acknowledges and agrees that any and all business expenses must be properly submitted for reimbursement with all required supporting documentation before payment of any Severance Benefits will commence. Employee acknowledges and agrees that

any amounts that remain due on Employee's Corporate American Express card account that the Company deems for any reason to be personal expenses, including but not limited to insufficient supporting documentation or because such amounts are otherwise non-reimbursable under the Company's Corporate Travel and Business Expense policy, must be paid in full before payment of any Severance Benefits will commence.

2. Release of Claims. Employee, on behalf of Employee and Employee's spouse, personal representatives, administrators, minor children, heirs, assigns, wards, agents, and all other persons claiming by or through Employee, does hereby forever release and discharge Company and its respective officers, directors, shareholders, agents, employees, affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions, predecessors, successors, and assigns (the "Released Parties") from any and all charges, claims, demands, judgments, causes of action, damages, expenses, costs, and liabilities of any kind whatsoever. Employee expressly acknowledges that the claims released by this paragraph include all rights and claims relating to Employee's employment with Company and the termination thereof, including without limitation any claims Employee may have under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, as amended by the Older Worker Benefit Protection Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Equal Pay Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the Worker Adjustment Retraining and Notification (WARN) Act, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4112, Family and Medical Leave Act and any other federal, state, or local laws or regulations governing employment relationships. This release specifically and without limitation includes a release and waiver of any claims for employment discrimination, wrongful discharge, breach of contract, or promissory estoppel, and extends to all claims of every nature and kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, presently existing or resulting from or attributable to any act or omission of the Released Parties occurring prior to the execution of this Agreement. This release does not apply to any claim or rights or claims that may arise after the Effective Date of this Agreement. This release does not apply to any claims for unemployment compensation, workers compensation benefits, or vested benefits under ERISA.

3. Right to Participate in Charge. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to mean that Employee may not file a charge with a governmental agency, or participate in any investigation of a charge conducted by any governmental agency. Employee nevertheless understands and agrees that because of the waiver and release, he freely provides by signing this Agreement, he cannot obtain any monetary relief or recovery from the Released Parties in any proceeding.

4. Knowing and Voluntary Act. Employee acknowledges and agrees that the release set forth above is a general release. Employee, having been encouraged to and having had the opportunity to be advised by counsel, expressly waives all claims for damages which exist as of this date, but of which Employee does not now know or suspect to exist, whether through ignorance, oversight, error, negligence, or otherwise, and which, if known would materially affect Employee's decision to enter into this Agreement. Employee further agrees that Employee accepts the Severance Benefits as a complete compromise of matters involving disputed issues of law and fact and assumes the risk that the facts and law may be other than Employee believes. Employee further acknowledges and agrees that all the terms of this Agreement shall be in all

respects effective and not subject to termination or rescission by reason of any such differences in the facts or law, and that Employee provides this release voluntarily and with full knowledge and understanding of the terms hereof.

5. **Revocation Period.** Employee specifically acknowledges and understands that this Agreement is intended to release and discharge any claims of Employee under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, as amended by the Older Worker Benefit Protection Act (OWBPA). Under the OWBPA, Employee has 45 calendar days in which to consider this Agreement. However, pursuant to paragraph 19, below, Employee may sign this Agreement at any time up to and including 60 days after the Termination Date. Employee will have 7 calendar days in which to revoke Employee's acceptance after signing this Agreement. To revoke, Employee must deliver written notice of revocation to Company's Human Resources Department at 14111 Scottslawn Rd; Marysville, Ohio 43041. This Agreement will not be effective or enforceable unless it is signed in accordance with Paragraph 19 and is not revoked before the revocation period has expired. The Effective Date is the day after the last day of the revocation period following Employee's execution of this Agreement.

6. **Non-disparagement.** Employee agrees that Employee will not make any statement to any third party that Employee could reasonably foresee would cause harm to the personal or professional reputation of the Released Parties. The Company will instruct its CEO, Senior Executive Staff, Human Resource Executives, and all direct reports of the COO and CFO not to make any statement to any third party that could reasonably be foreseen to cause harm to the personal or professional reputation of Employee. Nothing in this section limits any person's ability to provide truthful testimony or information to any court or government agency.

7. **No Admission of Liability.** Neither this Agreement, nor any term contained herein, may be construed as, or may be used as, an admission on the part of either party of any fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever.

8. **Survivorship.** Should Employee die or become totally disabled following the Termination Date but before the payments due Employee under Paragraph 1 above have been made, any remaining payments shall be made to Employee (or Employee's designated beneficiary, as applicable).

9. **Return of Property.** Employee either agrees to return, or that he has already returned, or will return, all Company property remaining in Employee's possession or control, including without limitation any and all equipment, documents, credit cards, hardware, software, source code, data, keys or access cards, files, or records.

10. **Confidentiality.** This Agreement is and shall remain confidential. Employee agrees not to, at any time, disclose the terms of this Agreement, in whole or in part, including the existence and amount of the Severance Benefits, to any individual or entity without the prior written consent of Company or unless required by law. Employee may, however, disclose the terms of this Agreement to Employee's attorney, tax advisor, and immediate family, provided that any such persons agree in advance to be bound by this confidentiality provision. Employee

further acknowledges and agrees that any confidentiality, nondisclosure, noncompetition, and nonsolicitation obligations to Company under any prior agreement, are not being released hereby and will specifically survive the termination of Employee's employment and this Agreement. Employee expressly agrees to keep and maintain Company confidential information confidential, and not to use or disclose such information, directly or indirectly, without the prior written consent of Company or unless required by law. Employee agrees that the provisions of this paragraph are material terms of this Agreement.

11. Cooperation with Litigation. Employee will cooperate fully with Company in its defense of any lawsuit filed over matters that occurred during the tenure of Employee's employment with Company, and Employee agrees to provide full and accurate information with respect to same. Employee further agrees not to assist any party in maintaining any lawsuit against any of the Released Parties, including without limitation any pending or future litigation in which Employee, other Company personnel, or Company entities are named as parties, and will not provide any information to anyone concerning any of the Released Parties, unless compelled to do so by valid subpoena or other court order, and in such case only after first notifying Company sufficiently in advance of such subpoena or court order to reasonably allow Company an opportunity to object to same. In the event that Employee's cooperation is necessary under this paragraph, Employee and the Company shall agree on a reasonable rate for Employee's time and reimbursement of reasonable expenses in providing that cooperation.

12. Cooperation with Governmental Investigations. Employee will cooperate fully with Company in any investigation, audit, or inquiry conducted by or on behalf of any federal, state, or local governmental agencies regarding the Company, including, but not limited to, providing truthful information to the Company and making himself available to the Company upon reasonable notice for purposes of being interviewed or otherwise providing assistance to the Company. Employee further agrees to notify the Company through the Director of Litigation, at 14111 Scottslawn Road, Marysville, Ohio 43041 should he be contacted by a governmental agency regarding a governmental investigation, audit or inquiry regarding the Company. In the event that Employee's cooperation is necessary under this paragraph, Employee and the Company shall agree on a reasonable rate for Employee's time and reimbursement of reasonable expenses in providing that cooperation.

13. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement (or in any other agreement, contract or arrangement with the Company or its subsidiaries or affiliates, or in any policy, procedure or practice of the Company or its subsidiaries or affiliates (collectively, the "Arrangements")): (a) nothing in the Arrangements or otherwise limits Employee's right to any monetary award offered by a government-administered whistleblower award program for providing information directly to a government agency (including the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Section 21F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act or The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002); and (b) nothing in the Arrangements or otherwise prevents Employee from, without prior notice to the Company, providing information (including documents) to governmental authorities or agencies regarding possible legal violations or otherwise testifying or participating in any investigation or proceeding by any governmental authorities or agencies regarding possible legal

violations (for purpose of clarification, Employee is not prohibited from providing information (including documents) voluntarily to the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Section 21F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended). The Company nonetheless asserts and does not waive its attorney-client privilege over any information appropriately protected by privilege. The terms of this paragraph are referred to as the “Protected Rights,” and the terms of this Agreement are subject to the Protected Rights.

14. Choice of Law. The validity, construction and interpretation of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio.

15. Execution in Parts. This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original, and all of which shall constitute a single Agreement.

16. No Waiver of Terms. Failure to insist upon strict compliance with any of the terms, covenants, or conditions of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any such term, covenant, or condition, nor shall any failure at any one time or more times be deemed a waiver or relinquishment at any other time or times of any right under this Agreement.

17. Modifications. No modification or amendment of this Agreement shall be effective unless the modification or amendment is in a writing duly executed by all the parties hereto.

18. Assignment. Company may assign, in whole or in part, its rights and obligations under this Agreement, and the rights of Company hereunder shall inure to the benefit of, and the obligations of Company hereunder shall be binding upon, its successors and assigns. Employee’s rights and obligations hereunder may not be assigned.

19. Entire Agreement. Except as otherwise set forth herein, this Agreement sets forth the entire Agreement between Company and Employee and supersedes and replaces any and all prior or contemporaneous representations or agreements, whether oral or written, relating to the subject matter hereof.

20. Method of Acceptance. To accept, Employee must sign the Agreement. Once Employee has accepted the Agreement, Employee shall deliver a signed and dated copy hereof to The Scotts Company Attn: Human Resources Department / Compensation, 14111 Scottslawn Road, Marysville, Ohio 43041. This Agreement cannot be accepted until after the Termination Date and will not be effective if signed by Employee prior to the Termination Date. Employee has 60 days following the Termination Date to accept this Agreement, after which time it shall be withdrawn. Employee’s failure to deliver Agreement in a timely manner will excuse Company from timely payment.

21. Code Section 409A Compliance. It is Company’s intent that amounts paid under this Agreement generally shall not constitute “deferred compensation” as that term is defined under Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (“Code Section 409A”), and the regulations promulgated thereunder, because the amounts paid under this Agreement are

structured to comply with either the “short-term deferral” exception or other applicable exceptions to Code Section 409A. To the extent that any individual payments under this Agreement do not qualify for an exception and are determined to be “deferred compensation” within the meaning of Code Section 409A and compliance with an applicable term of this Agreement would cause or would result in a violation of Code Section 409A, then such provision shall be interpreted or reformed in the manner necessary to achieve compliance with Code Section 409A. Accordingly, the “Termination Date” is the date that Employee incurred a “separation from service” under Code Section 409A, and thus all payments under this Agreement are being made upon Employee’s separation from service. In no event may Employee, directly or indirectly, designate the calendar year of a payment and where payment may occur in one year or the next, it shall be made in the second year. Each payment under this Agreement, including each salary continuation payment of Severance Pay, Bonus Amount, Miscellaneous Payment, and each Benefits Offset Payment, shall be treated as a separate identified payment for purposes of Code Section 409A.

Employee is a specified employee (as defined in Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(i)). Company and Employee agree that all payments under this Agreement that are scheduled to be paid within six months after Employee’s Termination Date qualify for an exception to Code Section 409A, and all other payments are made at a time and in a form that complies with Code Section 409A. Employee acknowledges that Company does not make any representations or is providing tax advice to Employee, and that Employee has had the opportunity to consult with his own tax and financial counsel with respect to this Agreement.

**In witness whereof, each of the undersigned, having received all the advice deemed necessary, and having carefully read and understood this agreement, does hereby sign and accept this Agreement as of the date set forth below.**

11/25/2024  
Date

/s/ MATTHEW E. GARTH  
Matthew E. Garth

11/25/2024  
Date

THE SCOTTS COMPANY LLC  
By: /s/ JAMES HAGEDORN  
Its: Chairman, CEO & President

**Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certifications**  
**(Principal Executive Officer)**  
**CERTIFICATIONS**

I, James Hagedorn, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company for the fiscal quarter ended December 28, 2024;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 5, 2025

By: /s/ JAMES HAGEDORN

Printed Name: James Hagedorn

Title: Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer

**Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certifications  
(Principal Financial Officer)  
CERTIFICATIONS**

I, Mark J. Scheiwer, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company for the fiscal quarter ended December 28, 2024;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 5, 2025

By: /s/ MARK J. SCHEIWER

Printed Name: Mark J. Scheiwer

Title: Interim Chief Financial Officer & Chief Accounting Officer

## SECTION 1350 CERTIFICATIONS\*

In connection with the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company (the "Company") for the fiscal quarter ended December 28, 2024 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), the undersigned James Hagedorn, Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer of the Company, and Mark J. Scheiwer, Interim Chief Financial Officer & Chief Accounting Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to the best of their knowledge:

- 1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- 2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the consolidated financial condition and results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries.

/s/ JAMES HAGEDORN

Printed Name: James Hagedorn

Title: Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer

February 5, 2025

/s/ MARK J. SCHEIWER

Printed Name: Mark J. Scheiwer

Title: Interim Chief Financial Officer & Chief Accounting Officer

February 5, 2025

\* THESE CERTIFICATIONS ARE BEING FURNISHED AS REQUIRED BY RULE 13a-14(b) UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (THE "EXCHANGE ACT") AND SECTION 1350 OF CHAPTER 63 OF TITLE 18 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE, AND SHALL NOT BE DEEMED "FILED" FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 18 OF THE EXCHANGE ACT OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO THE LIABILITY OF THAT SECTION. THESE CERTIFICATIONS SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO BE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO ANY FILING UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR THE EXCHANGE ACT, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE COMPANY SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATES THESE CERTIFICATIONS BY REFERENCE.