

INDUSTRY NEWS

Scotts/Ball Seed Partner

Ball Seed Co. will serve as a distributor of Scotts Co. control release and water-soluble fertilizer products based on a newly announced agreement between the two companies. Under the agreement, Ball Seed Co. will distribute popular Scotts products including Osmocote and Peters branded fertilizers.

New Partners

Becker Underwood of Ames, Iowa, announced its recent affiliation with Norwest Equity Partners (NEP). NEP is a private firm located in Minneapolis, and the affiliation is a strategic partnership based on long-term growth plans by Becker Underwood, which specializes in biotech products for agriculture, seed, landscaping and turf.

Fungicide OK'D

Companion Dry Concentrate, containing *Bacillus subtilis* GB03 has been granted a zero-hour REI label by the Environmental Protection Agency. Growth Products Ltd. developed Companion Dry Concen-

trate to be used in greenhouse and nursery operations on ornamentals and food crops to battle root and crown diseases like Rhizoctonia, Pythium, Fusarium, Phytophthora and Sclerotinia.

Happy Hippo

J.R. Johnson Supply Co., Roseville, Minn., announced the phase one launch of www.HortHippo.com, billed as the "First Online Animal in Horticulture." HortHippo.com has the eventual goal of furthering industry education, offering a one-stop information source for industry professionals and offering real-time transaction capability 24/7.

Fine: New Subsidiary

Fine Holdings, parent company of UK manufacturer Fine Agrochemicals Ltd., announced recently it would formulate Fine Americas Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Fine Holdings. Fine Americas will be responsible for the group's business interests in the United States, Canada, and South and Central America. For more, visit www.fine-agrochemicals.com.

Buckley Expands

H.M. Buckley and Sons, Inc. of Springfield, Ill., announced it has purchased Fahr Greenhouse's liner production division. Fahr Greenhouse will continue operating its finished plant business and retail operation. H.M. Buckley will continue special programs developed by Fahr, including its popular sample tray and combination trays. In addition, H.M. Buckley has been selected as a licensed Suntory rooting station. The company will offer the entire line of

50-Year Milestone

George Dean, widely recognized for his contributions to greenhouse automation, celebrates his 50th year with Wadsworth

Control Systems this year. Dean heads up the company first started in 1952 by his father, George Dean Sr.



Dean

The younger Dean is in the Floriculture Hall of Fame for both Society of American Florists and the Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association for his achievements.

Suntory varieties starting in the 2004-2005 growing season. For more, visit www.hmbuckley-il.com.

SePRO Buys Research Land

SePRO Corp. will buy the former Zeneca research facility in Whitakers, N.C., about 60 miles northeast of Raleigh. To be named the SePRO Research and Technology Campus, it includes a six-building aquatic research and technology complex, complete with laboratories and 11 acres of specialized aquatic research ponds and mesocosms. In addition, the site includes 296 acres of tillable land, 79 woodland acres and a 15-acre lake.

Trade Show Leader Dies

Donn W. Sanford, 64, died Aug. 30 in Tucson, Ariz. Sanford was well known to the horticulture industry, serving as the managing director of the Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show from 1977 to 2000. He established the association management company, the Sanford Organization, in 1975, and with his daughter Donna launched *EXPO* magazine to serve

Wall Street Watch

Here's a handful of stocks in floriculture and an update on their performance.

Company	Open	52-week	
	September 23	High	Low
Costco Wholesale (COST)	10.83	43.00	30.77
Fed Ex Corp. (FDX)	84.20	88.90	63.70
1-800 FLOWERS (FLWS)	8.61	12.14	7.01
Frank's (FNCNQ.OB)	0.05	1.22	0.04
Hines Horticulture (HORT)	2.78	5.27	2.61
Home Depot (HD)	38.25	39.09	31.65
Deere & Co. (DE)	63.15	74.93	51.84
Lowe's Cos. Inc. (LOW)	53.16	60.42	45.90
Martha Stewart (MSO)	16.25	17.00	8.25
Myers Industries (MYE)	11.05	13.54	8.89
Scotts Co. (SMG)	63.29	69.33	53.07
Syngenta (SYT)	18.49	18.71	10.57
Target Corp. (TGT)	45.32	47.40	36.19
Wal-Mart (WMT)	52.26	61.31	50.50