



BRIGGS & STRATTON CORPORATION • P.O. Box 702 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

BRIGGS & STRATTON CORPORATION REPORTS RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND SIX MONTHS OF FISCAL 2000

MILWAUKEE, January 14/PR Newswire/—Briggs & Stratton Corporation (NYSE:BGG)

Second quarter sales increased 17%. Engine unit shipments increased 6%. For the first six months of fiscal 2000, sales were up 24%. These increases were to a great degree the result of a shift in the seasonal pattern. Lawn and garden equipment manufacturers are building product, particularly lawn tractors, earlier this year, hoping to avoid the engine shortages that developed in the peak selling season last year and the year before. Net income increased 67% in the second quarter as fixed costs were spread over higher production.

We believe that demand from the lawn and garden segment will remain strong through the third fiscal quarter but weaken in the fourth fiscal quarter. Most of the market's requirements will have been built by the end of the third fiscal quarter. The Y2K transition has occurred and, as expected, demand for generator engines has evaporated. Fear of Y2K-related power interruptions drove a significant portion of generator demand in 1999. We believe that demand will recover because there are good reasons unrelated to Y2K for consumers to purchase standby generators. We expect a modest improvement in third quarter earnings, lower sales and earnings in the fourth quarter, and higher sales and earnings for the full fiscal year.

F. P. Stratton, Jr.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Consolidated Statements of Earnings For Periods Ended December

	(In Thousands)			
	<u>Second Quarter</u>		<u>Six Months</u>	
	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
NET SALES	\$ 422,238	\$ 359,943	\$ 721,171	\$ 583,924
COST OF GOODS SOLD	<u>322,515</u>	<u>288,472</u>	<u>566,066</u>	<u>474,841</u>
Gross Profit on Sales	99,723	71,471	155,105	109,083
ENGINEERING, SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	<u>33,196</u>	<u>29,107</u>	<u>62,836</u>	<u>58,355</u>
Income from Operations	66,527	42,364	92,269	50,728
INTEREST EXPENSE	(5,208)	(4,748)	(8,335)	(8,158)
GAIN ON DISPOSITION OF FOUNDRY ASSETS	-	-	16,545	-
OTHER INCOME, Net	<u>3,985</u>	<u>1,801</u>	<u>5,618</u>	<u>3,948</u>
Income Before Provision for Income Taxes	65,304	39,417	106,097	46,518
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	<u>24,160</u>	<u>14,780</u>	<u>39,250</u>	<u>17,440</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 41,144</u>	<u>\$ 24,637</u>	<u>\$ 66,847</u>	<u>\$ 29,078</u>
Average Shares Outstanding	<u>23,092</u>	<u>23,308</u>	<u>23,120</u>	<u>23,467</u>
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 1.78</u>	<u>\$ 1.06</u>	<u>\$ 2.89</u>	<u>\$ 1.24</u>
Diluted Average Shares Outstanding	<u>23,190</u>	<u>23,481</u>	<u>23,219</u>	<u>23,588</u>
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 1.77</u>	<u>\$ 1.05</u>	<u>\$ 2.88</u>	<u>\$ 1.23</u>

This release contains certain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements are based on the Company's current views and assumptions and involve risks and uncertainties that include, among other things, the effects of weather on the purchasing patterns of the Company's customers and end use purchasers of the Company's engines; the seasonal nature of the Company's business; actions of competitors; changes in laws and regulations, including accounting standards; employee relations; customer demand; prices of purchased raw materials and parts; domestic economic conditions, including housing starts and changes in consumer disposable income; foreign economic conditions, including currency rate fluctuations; the ability of the Company's customers and suppliers to meet year 2000 compliance; and unanticipated internal year 2000 issues. Some or all of the factors are beyond the Company's control.

