



EARNINGS RELEASE

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

BRIGGS & STRATTON CORPORATION REPORTS RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS OF FISCAL 2000

MILWAUKEE, April 17/PR Newswire/—Briggs & Stratton Corporation (NYSE:BGG)

Net income for the third quarter was about 1% higher than for last year's third quarter. Earnings per share increased about 3%. Net sales decreased approximately 2%. The disposition of our ductile iron foundries earlier in the fiscal year reduced third quarter sales by 3%. Engine unit shipments increased 4%.

For the first nine months, net income increased 54%. Earnings per share were 56% higher. Sales increases and the spreading of costs over more units produced were the primary contributors to the increase in net income.

The lawn and garden equipment selling season got off to a strong start, and at this time the strength continues. We are encouraged by this strength, although we expect demand to weaken later in the fourth quarter, which is the normal pattern. Even if engine demand weakens, we plan to continue high production rates because we will need to maintain finished engine inventory at a level that will allow us to meet next year's demand. Thus we believe that the fourth quarter will be a good one, although not as good as last year's unusually strong fourth quarter. At this time we expect record sales and earnings for the full fiscal year.

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

Consolidated Statements of Earnings For Periods Ended March

(In Thousands)

	Third Quarter		Nine Months	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
NET SALES	\$ 468,678	\$ 476,259	\$1,189,849	\$1,060,183
COST OF GOODS SOLD	<u>366,838</u>	<u>373,428</u>	<u>932,904</u>	<u>848,269</u>
Gross Profit on Sales	101,840	102,831	256,945	211,914
ENGINEERING, SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	<u>33,285</u>	<u>32,140</u>	<u>96,121</u>	<u>90,495</u>
Income from Operations	68,555	70,691	160,824	121,419
INTEREST EXPENSE	(6,816)	(5,025)	(15,151)	(13,183)
GAIN ON DISPOSITION OF FOUNDRY ASSETS	-	-	16,545	-
OTHER INCOME, Net	<u>5,027</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>10,645</u>	<u>5,198</u>
Income Before Provision for Income Taxes	66,766	66,916	172,863	113,434
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	<u>24,710</u>	<u>25,103</u>	<u>63,960</u>	<u>42,543</u>
Net Income	\$ <u>42,056</u>	\$ <u>41,813</u>	\$ <u>108,903</u>	\$ <u>70,891</u>
Average Shares Outstanding	<u>22,842</u>	<u>23,271</u>	<u>23,021</u>	<u>23,399</u>
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE	\$ <u>1.84</u>	\$ <u>1.80</u>	\$ <u>4.73</u>	\$ <u>3.03</u>
Diluted Average Shares Outstanding	<u>22,866</u>	<u>23,357</u>	<u>23,104</u>	<u>23,480</u>
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	\$ <u>1.84</u>	\$ <u>1.79</u>	\$ <u>4.71</u>	\$ <u>3.02</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.

BRIGGS & STRATTON CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of the End of March 2000 and 1999

(In Thousands)

CURRENT ASSETS:	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	CURRENT LIABILITIES:	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 13,805	\$ 26,166	Accounts Payable	\$ 134,957	\$ 106,223
Accounts Receivable	433,866	342,958	Domestic Notes Payable	216,469	81,025
Inventories	239,941	127,926	Foreign Loans	18,647	18,952
Other	<u>58,825</u>	<u>51,632</u>	Current Maturities on Long-Term Debt	15,000	15,000
Total Current Assets	<u>746,437</u>	<u>548,682</u>	Accrued Liabilities	<u>171,545</u>	<u>167,334</u>
			Total Current Liabilities	<u>556,618</u>	<u>388,534</u>
			OTHER LIABILITIES:		
OTHER ASSETS:			Deferred Revenue on Sale of		
Marketable Securities and			Plant & Equipment	15,711	15,823
Other Investments	48,207	15,904	Deferred Income Tax Liability	2,565	-
Deferred Income Tax Asset	-	5,221	Accrued Pension Cost	8,640	19,494
Capitalized Software	<u>6,820</u>	<u>7,545</u>	Accrued Employee Benefits	13,892	12,984
Total Other Assets	<u>55,027</u>	<u>28,670</u>	Postretirement Health Care Obligation	65,706	70,691
			Long-Term Debt	<u>113,461</u>	<u>128,256</u>
			Total Other Liabilities	<u>219,975</u>	<u>247,248</u>
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:			SHAREHOLDERS' INVESTMENT:		
At Cost	825,014	842,040	Common Stock and Additional		
Less - Accumulated			Paid-in Capital	36,767	37,333
Depreciation	<u>432,198</u>	<u>444,495</u>	Retained Earnings	701,027	584,316
Net Plant and Equipment	<u>392,816</u>	<u>397,545</u>	Unearned Compensation on		
			Restricted Stock	(244)	(249)
			Unrealized Gain on Marketable		
			Securities	3,332	192
			Cumulative Translation Adjustments	(3,965)	(1,998)
			Treasury Stock, at Cost	<u>(319,230)</u>	<u>(280,479)</u>
			Total Shareholders' Investment	<u>417,687</u>	<u>339,115</u>
	<u>\$ 1,194,280</u>	<u>\$ 974,897</u>		<u>\$ 1,194,280</u>	<u>\$ 974,897</u>

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(In Thousands)

	<u>Nine Months Ended March</u>	
	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net Income	\$ 108,903	\$ 70,891
Depreciation and Amortization	38,158	35,899
(Gain) Loss on Disposition of Plant and Equipment	(16,271)	391
Credit for Deferred Income Taxes	(4,062)	(278)
Increase in Accounts Receivable	(239,750)	(207,600)
Increase in Inventories	(103,852)	(20,048)
Increase in Other Current Assets	(1,928)	(3,503)
Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	57,160	87,009
Other, Net	<u>(17,609)</u>	<u>(10,431)</u>
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	<u>(179,251)</u>	<u>(47,670)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Additions to Plant and Equipment	(53,861)	(43,903)
Proceeds Received on Disposition of Plant and Equipment	23,882	1,521
Other, Net	<u>5,141</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	<u>(24,838)</u>	<u>(42,382)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Net Borrowings on Loans and Notes Payable	216,957	81,417
Dividends	(20,683)	(20,380)
Purchase of Common Stock for Treasury	(43,188)	(58,006)
Proceeds from Exercise of Stock Options	<u>5,561</u>	<u>28,682</u>
Net Cash Provided in Financing Activities	<u>158,647</u>	<u>31,713</u>
EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES	<u>(1,559)</u>	<u>(22)</u>
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	<u>(47,001)</u>	<u>(58,361)</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning	<u>60,806</u>	<u>84,527</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Ending	<u>\$ 13,805</u>	<u>\$ 26,166</u>