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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 17-019

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### **Alaska Garden and Pet Supply Named Manufacturer of the Year**

July 24, 2017 ANCHORAGE – At the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's Monday Forum, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development awarded the Made in Alaska Manufacturer of the Year Award to Alaska Garden and Pet Supply.

"It is a pleasure to honor this long-time Alaska business with the Manufacturer of the Year Award," said Chris Hladick, commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. "Alaska Garden and Pet Supply continues to innovate and deliver quality products to Alaskans, while also providing jobs for Alaskans in the process."

Alaska Garden and Pet Supply was founded in 1950 on the principles of providing the customer good advice, fair prices, and great customer service. Today, the company operates a garden and pet wholesale distribution business and the Alaska Mill & Feed retail store in Anchorage. Through nearly six decades of operation, the company has evolved to meet customer needs in Alaska, adding a feed mill in 1965, a fertilizer blending plant in 1978, and a liquid ice melt facility in 2015. Alaska Garden and Pet Supply always create products with an eye towards the needs of Alaskans, which has contributed to its statewide success.

Alaska Garden and Pet Supply became an employee-owned company in 2016. The company provides jobs for more than 65 people, supports 20 local nonprofits through charitable activities, and also offers community classes to teach Alaskans of all ages how to garden and farm. The company not only proudly holds Made in Alaska permits for several of its products, but it also supports the Alaska Grown program, promoting locally grown agricultural products.

Since 1991, the Manufacturer of the Year award has been presented annually to a Made in Alaska permit holder demonstrating hard work, business growth, job creation, innovation, and community spirit. The Made in Alaska program is used to identify and promote the purchase of products manufactured or crafted in Alaska, ranging from small gift items to large industrial products. The program, administered by the Division of Economic Development, was launched during 1985 and currently has nearly 1000 active participants. More information about the Made in Alaska program is available at [madeinalaska.org](http://madeinalaska.org).

Housed within Alaska State Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, the Division of Economic Development supports the growth and diversification of Alaska's economy through policy, promotion, financing, and business assistance. For additional information about the division, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov/web/DED](http://commerce.alaska.gov/web/DED). To learn more about DCCED and its other agencies, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov](http://commerce.alaska.gov).

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