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Oregon Company Offers Environmentally-Friendly Alternative to Traditional Disposable Tableware and Food Packaging

StalkMarket Products Now Available Through Wild Oats Stores

PORTLAND, Ore. – Oct. 25, 2005 – StalkMarket, an Oregon-based company that offers disposable tableware and food packaging that is both biodegradable and 100 percent compostable, announced today that it has signed its third major organic retailer, Wild Oats. Wild Oats will now offer a variety of StalkMarket products in all of its stores.

StalkMarket's product line includes a wide array of plates, bowls, serving trays, pizza containers, sandwich boxes and cups made from fibers that come from sugar cane stalks recovered from the sugar refining process. StalkMarket products can withstand boiling liquids, are microwave safe, can be frozen and are oil-resistant. Unlike disposable paper, plastic and polystyrene (Styrofoam) products, StalkMarket products can be placed in a back yard composter and will break down completely in six to eight weeks. They will also disintegrate in six to nine months in a landfill.

“While it is deeply satisfying to see an increasing global commitment to protecting the environment, our society is not yet ready to give up the convenience of using disposable products,” said Bret “Buzz” Chandler, president of StalkMarket. “Environmental organizations have actually referred to our product as the world's most ‘environmentally-friendly trash,’ because we recycle a waste material from sugar production to make useful products that can be composted in to nutrient-rich soil after use.”

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, paper and paper board products, which include paper plates and food packaging, constitute the largest portion of municipal solid waste. The average individual discards about four pounds of waste material each day. Although recycling materials helps to alleviate this burden on our environment, the most preferred method of waste management is to reduce the generation

of waste at the source through waste prevention. Waste prevention includes seeking products and packaging that are free of toxics and redesigning products to use fewer raw materials in production. StalkMarket products exemplify this approach.

StalkMarket products are intentionally priced to be competitive with paper products of similar quality and are often less expensive than products that use oil-based PVC and Styrofoam. In addition to retailers, StalkMarket makes its products directly available to food service companies. Any StalkMarket product can be embossed with a name or logo.

Availability

StalkMarket began its distribution in the United States in 2003 at New Seasons markets in the Portland, Ore. area. StalkMarket products are available to consumers at major natural food retailers including Market of Choice, New Seasons and Wild Oats. They are also available at select independent natural food stores and through online retailers.

StalkMarket distributes its products wholesale to industrial food service customers through distributor partners, Service Paper Company and Chins Imports. Products are also available through United Natural Foods Inc. More information is available at www.stalkmarket.net.

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