

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE
CO.,

Plaintiff,

v.

BUSHNELL LANDSCAPE
INDUSTRIES, INC.,

Defendant.

No. 2:14-cv-02305-MCE-CKD

PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

After reviewing the parties' Joint Status Report, the Court makes the following
Pretrial Scheduling Order.

I. SERVICE OF PROCESS

All named Defendants have been served and no further service is permitted
without leave of court, good cause having been shown.

II. ADDITIONAL PARTIES/AMENDMENTS/PLEADINGS

No joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is permitted without leave of
court, good cause having been shown.

III. JURISDICTION/VENUE

Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Jurisdiction and venue are not
contested.

1 IV. DISCOVERY

2 All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall be completed by
3 **September 25, 2015**. In this context, “completed” means that all discovery shall have
4 been conducted so that all depositions have been taken and any disputes relative to
5 discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if necessary and, where
6 discovery has been ordered, the order has been obeyed. All motions to compel
7 discovery must be noticed on the magistrate judge’s calendar in accordance with the
8 local rules of this Court.

9 V. DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES

10 All counsel are to designate in writing, file with the Court, and serve upon all other
11 parties the name, address, and area of expertise of each expert that they propose to
12 tender at trial not later than **November 25, 2015**.¹ The designation shall be
13 accompanied by a written report prepared and signed by the witness. The report shall
14 comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).

15 Within twenty (20) days after the designation of expert witnesses, any party may
16 designate a supplemental list of expert witnesses who will express an opinion on a
17 subject covered by an expert designated by an adverse party. The right to designate a
18 supplemental expert for rebuttal purposes only shall apply to a party who has not
19 previously disclosed an expert witness on the date set for expert witness disclosure by
20 this Pretrial Scheduling Order.

21 Failure of a party to comply with the disclosure schedule as set forth above in all
22 likelihood will preclude that party from calling the expert witness at the time of trial. An
23 expert witness not appearing on the designation will not be permitted to testify unless the
24 party offering the witness demonstrates: (a) that the necessity for the witness could not
25 have been reasonably anticipated at the time the list was proffered; (b) that the Court

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27 ¹ The discovery of experts will include whether any motions based on Daubert v. Merrell Dow
28 Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 U.S. 579 (1993) and/or Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael, 526 U.S. 137 (1999)
are anticipated.

1 and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon discovery of the witness; and (c) that
2 the witness was promptly made available for deposition.

3 For purposes of this Pretrial Scheduling Order, an “expert” is any person who may
4 be used at trial to present evidence under Rules 702, 703, and 705 of the Federal Rules
5 of Evidence, which include both “percipient experts” (persons who, because of their
6 expertise, have rendered expert opinions in the normal course of their work duties or
7 observations pertinent to the issues in the case) and “retained experts” (persons
8 specifically designated by a party to be a testifying expert for the purposes of litigation).

9 Each party shall identify whether a disclosed expert is percipient, retained, or
10 both. It will be assumed that a party designating a retained expert has acquired the
11 express permission of the witness to be so listed. Parties designating percipient experts
12 must state in the designation who is responsible for arranging the deposition of such
13 persons.

14 All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time of designation to render
15 an informed opinion, and give their bases for their opinion, so that they will be able to
16 give full and complete testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing party. Experts
17 will not be permitted to testify at the trial as to any information gathered or evaluated, or
18 opinion formed, after deposition taken subsequent to designation.

19 Counsel are instructed to complete all discovery of expert witnesses in a timely
20 manner in order to comply with the Court’s deadline for filing dispositive motions.

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VI. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE

The last day to hear dispositive motions shall be **March 24, 2016**. All papers should be filed in conformity with the Local Rules. However, with respect to Motions for Summary Judgment only, the parties shall comply with the following filing deadlines:

Motion for Summary Judgment	filed at least 8 weeks prior to hearing
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Opposition and any cross-motion	filed at least 5 weeks prior to hearing
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Reply and opposition to cross-motion	filed at least 3 weeks prior to hearing
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Reply to cross-motion	filed at least 1 week prior to hearing
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Absent leave of the Court, all issues the parties wish to resolve on summary judgment must be raised together in one (1) motion or cross-motion. Should the parties wish to file additional motions for summary judgment, they must seek leave of the Court.

The parties are directed to the Court's website for available hearing dates. (www.caed.uscourts.gov → choose Judges → choose Judge England → choose Standard Information)

All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely pretrial motions. When appropriate, failure to comply with Local Rules 230 and 260, as modified by this Order, may be deemed consent to the motion and the Court may dispose of the motion summarily. With respect to motions for summary judgment, failure to comply with Local Rules 230 and 260, as modified by this Order, may result in dismissal for failure to prosecute (or failure to defend) pursuant to this Court's inherent authority to control its docket and/or Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). Further, failure to timely oppose a summary judgment motion² may result in the granting of that motion if the movant shifts

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² The Court urges any party that contemplates bringing a motion for summary judgment or who must oppose a motion for summary judgment to review Local Rule 260.

1 the burden to the nonmovant to demonstrate that a genuine issue of material fact
2 remains for trial.

3 The Court places a page limit for points and authorities (exclusive of exhibits and
4 other supporting documentation) of twenty (20) pages on all initial moving papers, twenty
5 (20) pages on oppositions, and ten (10) pages for replies. All requests for page limit
6 increases must be made in writing to the Court setting forth any and all reasons for any
7 increase in page limit at least seven (7) days prior to the filing of the motion.

8 For the Court's convenience, citations to the Supreme Court Lexis database
9 should include parallel citations to the Westlaw database.

10 The parties are reminded that a motion in limine is a pretrial procedural device
11 designed to address the admissibility of evidence. The Court will look with disfavor upon
12 dispositional motions presented at the Final Pretrial Conference or at trial in the guise of
13 motions in limine.

14 The parties are cautioned that failure to raise a dispositive legal issue that could
15 have been tendered to the court by proper pretrial motion prior to the dispositive motion
16 cut-off date may constitute waiver of such issue.

17 VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

18 The Final Pretrial Conference is set for **July 28, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.** At least one
19 of the attorneys who will conduct the trial for each of the parties shall attend the Final
20 Pretrial Conference. If by reason of illness or other unavoidable circumstance a trial
21 attorney is unable to attend, the attorney who attends in place of the trial attorney shall
22 have equal familiarity with the case and equal authorization to make commitments on
23 behalf of the client.

24 Counsel for all parties are to be fully prepared for trial at the time of the Final
25 Pretrial Conference, with no matters remaining to be accomplished except production of
26 witnesses for oral testimony.

27 The parties shall file, not later than **July 7, 2016**, a Joint Final Pretrial Conference
28 Statement. The provisions of Local Rules 281 shall apply with respect to the matters to

1 be included in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement. In addition to those
2 subjects listed in Local Rule 281(b), the parties are to provide the Court with a plain,
3 concise statement that identifies every non-discovery motion tendered to the Court and
4 its resolution. Failure to comply with Local Rule 281, as modified by this Pretrial
5 Scheduling Order, may be grounds for sanctions.

6 At the time of filing the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement, counsel shall
7 also electronically mail to the Court in digital format compatible with Microsoft Word, the
8 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement in its entirety including the witness and exhibit
9 lists. **These documents shall be sent to: mceorders@caed.uscourts.gov.**

10 The parties should identify first the core undisputed facts relevant to all claims.
11 The parties should then, in a concise manner, identify those undisputed core facts that
12 are relevant to each claim. The disputed facts should be identified in the same manner.
13 Where the parties are unable to agree as to what disputed facts are properly before the
14 Court for trial, they should nevertheless list all disputed facts asserted by each party.
15 Each disputed fact or undisputed fact should be separately numbered or lettered.

16 Each party shall identify and concisely list each disputed evidentiary issue which
17 will be the subject of a motion in limine.

18 Each party shall identify the points of law which concisely describe the legal
19 issues of the trial which will be discussed in the parties' respective trial briefs. Points of
20 law should reflect issues derived from the core undisputed and disputed facts. Parties
21 shall not include argument or authorities with any point of law.

22 The parties shall prepare a joint statement of the case in plain concise language
23 which will be read to the jury at the beginning of the trial. The purpose of the joint
24 statement is to inform the jury what the case is about.

25 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Local Rule 281 they are required to list
26 in the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement all witnesses and exhibits they propose
27 to offer at trial. After the name of each witness, each party shall provide a brief
28 statement of the nature of the testimony to be proffered. The parties may file a joint list

1 or each party may file separate lists. These list(s) shall not be contained in the body of
2 the Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement itself, but shall be attached as separate
3 documents to be used as addenda to the Final Pretrial Order.

4 Plaintiff exhibits shall be listed numerically. Defendant exhibits shall be listed
5 alphabetically. The parties shall use the standard exhibit stickers provided by the Court
6 Clerk's Office: pink for plaintiff and blue for defendant. In the event that the alphabet is
7 exhausted, the exhibits shall be marked "AA-ZZ" and "AAA-ZZZ" etc. After three letters,
8 note the number of letters in parenthesis (i.e., "AAAA(4)") to reduce confusion at trial. All
9 multi-page exhibits shall be stapled or otherwise fastened together and each page within
10 the exhibit shall be numbered. All photographs shall be marked individually. The list of
11 exhibits shall not include excerpts of depositions, which may be used to impeach
12 witnesses. In the event that Plaintiff and Defendant offer the same exhibit during trial,
13 that exhibit shall be referred to by the designation the exhibit is first identified. The Court
14 cautions the parties to pay attention to this detail so that all concerned will not be
15 confused by one exhibit being identified with both a number and a letter.

16 The Final Pretrial Order will contain a stringent standard for the offering at trial of
17 witnesses and exhibits not listed in the Final Pretrial Order, and the parties are cautioned
18 that the standard will be strictly applied. On the other hand, the listing of exhibits or
19 witnesses that a party does not intend to offer will be viewed as an abuse of the Court's
20 processes.

21 The parties also are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of
22 Civil Procedure it will be their duty at the Final Pretrial Conference to aid the Court in:
23 (a) the formulation and simplification of issues and the elimination of frivolous claims or
24 defenses; (b) the settling of facts that should properly be admitted; and (c) the avoidance
25 of unnecessary proof and cumulative evidence. Counsel must cooperatively prepare the
26 Joint Final Pretrial Conference Statement and participate in good faith at the Final
27 Pretrial Conference with these aims in mind. A failure to do so may result in the
28 imposition of sanctions which may include monetary sanctions, orders precluding proof,

elimination of claims or defenses, or such other sanctions as the Court deems appropriate.

VIII. TRIAL BRIEFS

The parties shall file trial briefs not later than **July 14, 2016**. Counsel are directed to Local Rule 285 regarding the content of trial briefs.

IX. EVIDENTIARY AND/OR PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Any evidentiary or procedural motions are to be filed by **July 7, 2016**. Oppositions must be filed by **July 14, 2016**, and any reply must be filed by **July 21, 2016**. The motions will be heard by the Court at the same time as the Final Pretrial Conference.

X. TRIAL SETTING

The trial is set for **September 26, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.** Trial will be a jury trial. The panel will consist of seven (7) jurors. The parties estimate a trial length of **two (2) days**.

XI. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

At the Final Pretrial Conference, the Court may set a settlement conference if the parties so request. In the event no settlement conference is requested, the parties are free to continue to mediate or attempt to settle the case with the understanding that the trial date is a firm date.

In the event a settlement conference is set by the Court, counsel are instructed to have a principal with full settlement authority present at the Settlement Conference or to be fully authorized to settle the matter on any terms. At least seven (7) calendar days before the settlement conference, counsel for each party shall submit to the chambers of the settlement judge a confidential Settlement Conference Statement. Such statements are neither to be filed with the Clerk nor served on opposing counsel. Each party, however, shall serve notice on all other parties that the statement has been submitted. If the settlement judge is not the trial judge, the Settlement Conference Statement shall not be disclosed to the trial judge.

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1 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties may request a settlement conference
2 prior to the Final Pretrial Conference if they feel it would lead to the possible resolution of
3 the case. In the event an early settlement conference date is requested, the parties shall
4 file said request jointly, in writing. The request must state whether the parties waive
5 disqualification, pursuant to Local Rule 270(b), before a settlement judge can be
6 assigned to the case. Absent the parties' affirmatively requesting that the assigned
7 Judge or Magistrate Judge participate in the settlement conference AND waiver,
8 pursuant to Local Rule 270(b), a settlement judge will be randomly assigned to the case.

9 XII. VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

10 Pursuant to Local Rule 271 parties will need to lodge a stipulation and proposed
11 order requesting referral to the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program.

12 XIII. MODIFICATION OF PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER


13 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil
14 Procedure, the Pretrial Scheduling Order shall not be modified except by leave of court
15 upon a showing of **good cause**. Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation alone
16 to modify the Pretrial Scheduling Order does not constitute good cause. Except in
17 extraordinary circumstances, unavailability of witnesses or counsel will not constitute
18 good cause.

19 XIV. OBJECTIONS TO PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

20 This Pretrial Scheduling Order will become final without further order of the Court
21 unless objections are filed within seven (7) court days of service of this Order.

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Dated: March 19, 2015

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27 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR., CHIEF JUDGE
28 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT