

SCHEDULE 13G

Amendment No.
Central Garden & Pet Company
Class A Common Stock
Cusip # 153527106

Cusip # 153527106
Item 1: Reporting Person - FMR Corp. - (Tax ID: 04-2507163)
Item 4: Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Item 5: 92,386
Item 6: None
Item 7: 732,513
Item 8: None
Item 9: 732,513
Item 11: 6.02%
Item 12: HC

Cusip # 153527106
Item 1: Reporting Person - Edward C. Johnson 3d
Item 4: United States of America
Item 5: None
Item 6: None
Item 7: 732,513
Item 8: None
Item 9: 732,513
Item 11: 6.02%
Item 12: IN

Cusip # 153527106
Item 1: Reporting Person - Abigail P. Johnson
Item 4: United States of America
Item 5: None
Item 6: None
Item 7: 732,513
Item 8: None
Item 9: 732,513
Item 11: 6.02%
Item 12: IN

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS
FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b)

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

Central Garden & Pet Company

Item 1(b). Name of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

36220 Happy Valley Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

FMR Corp.

Item 2(b). Address or Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence:

82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

Not applicable

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Class A Common Stock

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

153527106

Item 3. This statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) and the

person filing, FMR Corp., is a parent holding company in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(ii)(G). (Note: See Item 7).

Item 4. Ownership

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:
732,513

(b) Percent of Class:
6.02%

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote:
92,386

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote:
None

(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
732,513

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
None

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Various persons have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the Class A common stock of Central Garden & Pet Company. No one person's interest in the Class A common stock of Central Garden & Pet Company is more than five percent of the total outstanding Class A common stock.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company.

See attached Exhibit(s) A, B, and C.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not applicable, see attached Exhibit A.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this Schedule 13G in connection with FMR Corp.'s beneficial ownership of the Class A common stock of Central Garden & Pet Company at December 31, 1996 is true, complete and correct.

February 14, 1997
Date

/s/Arthur S. Loring
Signature

Arthur S. Loring, Vice
President
Name/Title

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS
FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b)

Pursuant to the instructions in Item 7 of Schedule 13G, Fidelity Management & Research Company ("Fidelity"), 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR Corp. and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 640,128 shares or 5.26% of the Class A common stock outstanding of Central Garden & Pet Company ("the Company") as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Edward C. Johnson 3d, FMR Corp., through its control of Fidelity, and the funds each has sole power to dispose of the 640,128 shares owned by the Funds.

Neither FMR Corp. nor Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR Corp., has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fidelity Funds, which power resides with the Funds' Boards of Trustees. Fidelity carries out the voting of the shares under written guidelines established by the Funds' Boards of Trustees.

Fidelity Management Trust Company, 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR Corp. and a bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, is the beneficial owner of 31,786 shares or 0.26% of the Class A common stock outstanding of the Company as a result of its serving as investment manager of the institutional account(s).

Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR Corp., through its control of Fidelity Management Trust Company, each has sole voting and dispositive power over 31,786 shares of Class A common stock owned by the institutional account(s) as reported above.

Members of the Edward C. Johnson 3d family and trusts for their benefit are the predominant owners of Class B shares of common stock of FMR Corp., representing approximately 49% of the voting power of FMR Corp. Mr. Johnson 3d owns 12.0% and Abigail Johnson owns 24.5% of the aggregate outstanding voting stock of FMR Corp. Mr. Johnson 3d is Chairman of FMR Corp. and Abigail P. Johnson is a Director of FMR Corp. The Johnson family group and all other Class B shareholders have entered into a shareholders' voting agreement under which all Class B shares will be voted in accordance with the majority vote of Class B shares. Accordingly, through their ownership of voting common stock and the execution of the shareholders' voting agreement, members of the Johnson family may be deemed, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, to form a controlling group with respect to FMR Corp.

Fidelity International Limited, Pembroke Hall, 42 Crowlane, Hamilton, Bermuda, and various foreign-based subsidiaries provide investment advisory and management services to a number of non-U.S. investment companies (the "International Funds") and certain institutional investors. Fidelity International Limited is the beneficial owner of 60,600 shares or 0.50% of the Class A common stock outstanding of the Company. Additional information with respect to the beneficial ownership of Fidelity International Limited is shown on Exhibit B, page 1.

SCHEDULE 13G - TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS
FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b)

Pursuant to instructions in Item 7 of Schedule 13G, this Exhibit has been prepared to identify Fidelity International Limited, Pembroke Hall, 42 Crow Lane, Hamilton, Bermuda, a Bermudian joint stock company incorporated for an unlimited duration by private act of the Bermuda Legislature (FIL) and an investment adviser to various investment companies (the "International Funds") and certain institutional investors, as a beneficial owner of the 60,600 shares or 0.50% of the Class A common stock outstanding of Central Garden & Pet Company .

Prior to June 30, 1980, FIL was a majority-owned subsidiary of Fidelity Management & Research Company (Fidelity), a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR Corp. On that date, the shares of FIL held by Fidelity were distributed, as a