

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OF 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) March 20, 2000

Central Garden & Pet Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	0-20242	68-0275553
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(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

3697 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, California	94549
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(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (925) 283-4573

Inapplicable

(Former name or former address if changed since last report)

Exhibit Index located on page 3

Item 5. Other Events

On March 20, 2000, Central Garden & Pet Company (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that the Company is preparing to file a Form 10 with the SEC which, when declared effective by the SEC, would permit the Company to spin off its lawn and garden distribution business to shareholders.

Item 7. Financial Statement and Exhibits

- (a) Not applicable
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) See attached Exhibit Index.

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Number	Exhibit	Page Number
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99.1	Press Release dated March 20, 2000.	5

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY

By: /s/ Robert B. Jones

Robert B. Jones, Vice President, Finance

Dated: March 20, 2000

[LOGO OF CENTRAL GARDEN & PET]

Corporate Office
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Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 283-4573
Fax (925) 283-4984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Gregory Reams
Central Garden & Pet
(925) 283-4573

CENTRAL GARDEN & PET ANNOUNCES PLANS TO
SPIN OFF ITS LAWN AND GARDEN DISTRIBUTION BUSINESS

LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA, March 20, 2000--Central Garden & Pet Company
(NASDAQ: CENT) today announced that it is preparing to file with the Securities

and Exchange Commission ("SEC") a Form 10 which, when declared effective by the SEC, would permit the Company to spin off its lawn and garden distribution business to shareholders. If the spinoff is completed, the lawn and garden distribution business would become a separate public company while Central would continue to operate its existing lawn and garden branded products business, as well as its branded pet products and pet distribution businesses.

Central anticipates that the Form 10 will be filed within 30 days, that the SEC review process will take approximately six weeks and that the spinoff would take place in June.

Consummation of the spinoff is subject to obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals and final authorization by Central's Board of Directors, among other things.

Central Garden & Pet Company is the nation's leading manufacturer, supplier, and merchandiser of consumer lawn and garden and pet supply products. Central's proprietary branded products include Pennington Seed(R), Kaytee(R), TFH(R), Nylabone(R), Zodiac(R), and Four Paws(R) pet products, Island(R) aquariums, Matthews(R) Four Seasons products and Grant's(R) ant control products. Central offers its retail and branded manufacturing partners a wide array of value-added services proven to increase sales and profitability, including logistics and distribution support, inventory management, advertising and promotional programs, in-store merchandising service, and sales program development. For additional information on Central Garden & Pet, including access to the Company's SEC filings, please visit the Company's website at <http://www.centralgardenandpet.com>.

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"Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: The statements contained in this release which are not historical facts are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in or implied by forward-looking statements. These risks are described in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including, without limitation, the final accounting for all issues between the Company and Monsanto under the Solaris Agreement, such as the amounts receivable from Monsanto for cost reimbursements, payments for cost reductions and payments for services; the amounts payable to Monsanto for inventory; responsibility for obsolete inventory and for non-payment by Solaris' direct sales accounts; and costs associated with the realignment of the Company's lawn and garden distribution operations to reflect anticipated business levels for the fiscal year 2000.

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