

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) December 18, 1998

Central Garden & Pet Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

3697 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, California	94549
(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 December 18, 1998, Central Garden & Pet Company (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that the Company's Board of Directors has authorized an increase of \$30 million in the Company's share repurchase program, bringing the existing program from \$25 million to \$55 million.

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
99.1	Press Release dated December 18, 1998.	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

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Robert B. Jones, Vice President, Chief  
Financial Officer and Secretary

Dated: December 21, 1998

[LOGO OF CENTRAL GARDEN & PET]

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CENTRAL GARDEN & PET INCREASES SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAM

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LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 18, 1998 - Central Garden & Pet Company (NASDAQ:CENT), the nation's leading distributor of lawn and garden and pet supplies, announced today that the Company's Board of Directors has authorized an increase of \$30 million in the Company's share repurchase program, bringing the existing program from \$25 million to \$55 million. The Company has approximately 31 million shares outstanding.

Purchases would be made through brokers and dealers in the public market or privately negotiated transactions with nonaffiliated stockholders.

Central Garden & Pet Company is the leading national distributor of lawn and garden and pet supply products. Central offers customers a wide array of value-added services designed to increase the sales and profitability of both manufacturers and retailers, including inventory management, advertising and promotional programs, in-store service and display building and sales program development. Central also offers lines of proprietary branded products which include Pennington/R/, Kaytee/R/, TFH/R/, Zodiac/R/, and Four Paws/R/ pet products, Island/R/ aquariums, Matthews/R/ redwood products and Grant's/R/ ant control products.

"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.

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