

OMB APPROVAL

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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

(AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_) \*

-----  
Central Garden and Pet Co.

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

-----  
Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

-----  
153527106

-----  
(CUSIP Number)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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CUSIP No. 153527106

13G

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1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON  
A I M Management Group Inc., on behalf of itself and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, A I M Advisors, Inc. and A I M Capital Management, Inc.  
I.D. No. 74-1881407

-----  
2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*  
(a) / /  
(b) / /

-----  
3 SEC USE ONLY

-----  
4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

State of Delaware

-----  
5 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF

SHARES

-----  
6 SHARED VOTING POWER

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY 823,500  
-----  
EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
  
REPORTING  
PERSON -----  
8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
WITH  
  
823,500  
-----

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

823,500  
-----

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

6.7%  
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12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

HC  
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\*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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SCHEDULE 13G

- Item 1(a) NAME OF ISSUER:  
Central Garden and Pet Co.
- Item 1(b) ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES:  
3697 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 310  
Lafayette, CA 94549
- Item 2(a) NAME OF PERSON FILING:  
A I M Management Group Inc.
- Item 2(b) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE:  
11 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1919  
Houston, Texas 77046
- Item 2(c) CITIZENSHIP:  
State of Delaware
- Item 2(d) TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES:  
Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share
- Item 2(e) CUSIP NUMBER:  
153527106
- Item 3 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON:  
Parent Holding Company, in accordance with section 240.13d-  
1(b)(ii)(G)
- Item 4(a) AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1996:  
823,500 shares of common stock
- Item 4(b) PERCENT OF CLASS:  
6.7%
- Item 4(c) DEEMED VOTING POWER AND DISPOSITION POWER:  
(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote: N/A  
(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 823,500  
(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the  
disposition of: N/A  
(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the

- Item 5 OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS:  
N/A
- Item 6 OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON:  
N/A

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- Item 7 IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY:  
A I M Advisors, Inc. and A I M Capital Management, Inc., Investment Advisers registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act
- Item 8 IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP: N/A
- Item 9 NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF A GROUP:  
N/A
- 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 purposes or effect.

SIGNATURE:

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 12, 1997                      A I M Management Group Inc.

/s/ CAROL F. RELIHAN

Carol F. Relihan  
Vice President,  
Secretary and General Counsel

\*\* Please call Sharon Poessel at (713) 214-1126 with questions regarding this filing.

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