

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) April 29, 2002

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 2

Item 5. Other Events

On April 29, 2002, Central Garden & Pet Company (the "Company") issued a press release announcing a verdict in its litigation with The Scotts Company.

Item 7. Financial Statement and Exhibits

(a) Not applicable

(b) Not applicable

(c) Exhibits

Number Exhibit

99.1 Press Release dated April 29, 2002.

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/ Stuart W. Booth

Stuart W. Booth
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Dated: April 30, 2002

[LOGO OF CENTRAL GARDEN & PET]

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gregory Reams
Central Garden & Pet
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Central Garden & Pet RECEIVES OHIO JURY VERDICT

LAFAYETTE, California, April 29, 2002-- Central Garden & Pet Company (NASDAQ: CENT) said today that it received an Ohio jury verdict related to litigation with The Scotts Company. In the case before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, the jury awarded Scotts \$10.4 million, or less than half of its total claim of \$23.9 million, after taking into account Central's counterclaims. Central said it does not anticipate taking any charges in connection with this verdict.

Central is continuing to pursue antitrust claims against Scotts and said that the Ohio verdict will not affect a separate action on these claims, which is scheduled for trial in July in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

Central Garden & Pet Company is a leading producer of consumer garden and pet products. Central's proprietary branded products include Pennington Seed(R), Norcal Pottery(TM), AMDRO(R), Maxide(R), Strike(R), Lilly Miller(R), Grant's(R), and Matthews(R) Four Seasons garden products, and All-Glass(R), Oceanic Systems(R), Island(R), Kaytee(R), TFH(R), Nylabone(R), Zodiac(R), and Four Paws(R) pet products. 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>.
