

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant To Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) April 5, 2012

Central Garden & Pet Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
**(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)**

001-33268
**(Commission File
Number)**

68-0275553
**(IRS Employer
Identification No.)**

1340 Treat Boulevard, Suite 600, Walnut Creek, California
(Address of principal executive offices)

94597
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (925) 948-4000

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

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On April 5, 2012, Central Garden & Pet Company (the "Company") issued a press release announcing the appointment of Steven R. LaMonte as Executive Vice President, President-Garden Segment, effective as of May 7, 2012. Mr. LaMonte will report to Gus Halas, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Central Operating Companies. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Pursuant to his employment agreement effective May 7, 2012, Mr. LaMonte will receive an annual salary of \$425,000 and will be eligible for an annual bonus targeted at 50% of his base compensation, subject to his and the Company's performance. In addition, Mr. LaMonte will receive stock options for 80,000 shares of the Company's non-voting Common Stock ("CENTA") with an exercise price equal to the closing price of the CENTA shares on May 7, 2012. The options will vest over four years at a rate of 25% per year, with the first tranche vesting March 26, 2013, and expire six years from the issue date. Mr. LaMonte will also receive 40,000 restricted shares of CENTA, which will vest at a rate of 33-1/3% per year beginning at the end of year four and become fully vested at the end of year six. The agreement may be terminated upon 30 days written notice and in such an event, he would be entitled to nine months of base salary subject to the execution of a general release. The employment agreement also provides for a Post-Employment Consulting Agreement and an Agreement to Protect Confidential Information, Intellectual Property and Business Relationships.

Mr. LaMonte, age 56, will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. There was no arrangement or understanding between him and any other person pursuant to which he was to be selected as an officer, and Mr. LaMonte has no family relationship with any officer or director of the Company.

Mr. LaMonte has a career that spans over 30 years in consumer products companies. Since 2009, Mr. LaMonte was Vice President, Latin America & Asia Pacific Regions for Johnson & Johnson's McNeil Laboratories division. From 2006 through 2009, Mr. LaMonte was Worldwide Vice President, RX-OTC Switch & Innovation at Johnson & Johnson. Prior to working with Johnson & Johnson, Mr. LaMonte held numerous leadership positions at Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, Schering-Plough, Nestle Foods and other consumer products companies.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

99.1 Press Release dated April 5, 2012.

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/ Lori A. Varlas
Lori A. Varlas
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
and Secretary

Dated: April 6, 2012

**CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY NAMES STEVEN LAMONTE EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT - GARDEN SEGMENT**

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA, April 5, 2012 – Central Garden & Pet Company (NASDAQ: CENT) (NASDAQ: CENTA), a leading innovator, marketer and producer of quality branded products for the lawn and garden and pet supplies market, today announced the appointment of Steven LaMonte as Executive Vice President, President-Garden Segment, effective May 7, 2012. Mr. LaMonte will report to Gus Halas, President and Chief Executive Officer of Central Operating Companies. Mr. LaMonte will play a senior management role at the Company, including leadership of the Company’s Garden Products segment. He will be based in Central’s Atlanta office.

Mr. LaMonte’s career experience spans over 30 years in consumer products companies, including roles in leading U.S. and International operations as a general manager and marketing head, as well as leading other functions including strategic planning and global innovation. LaMonte most recently served as VP Latin America & Asia Pacific Regions for Johnson & Johnson’s McNeil Laboratories division. Prior to Johnson & Johnson, Mr. LaMonte held numerous leadership positions at Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, Schering-Plough, Nestle Foods and other consumer products companies.

“Steve’s diverse background in many critical components of the consumer products business will be a great asset to our company,” said Mr. Halas. “We intend to leverage his broad knowledge of product innovation, marketing, and strategic planning to help drive forward our Garden Products segment. I look forward to working with him as we continue to build our branded products business.”

About Central Garden & Pet

Central Garden & Pet Company is a leading innovator, marketer and producer of quality branded products for the lawn & garden and pet supplies markets. Committed to new product innovation, our products are sold to specialty independent and mass retailers. Participating categories in Lawn & Garden include: Grass seed and the brands PENNINGTON®, SMART SEED® and THE REBELS®; wild bird feed and the brand PENNINGTON®; weed and insect control and the brands AMDRO®, SEVIN®, IRONITE® and OVER-N-OUT®; and decorative outdoor patio products and the brands NORCAL POTTERY®, NEW ENGLAND POTTERY® and MATTHEWS FOUR SEASONS™. We also provide a host of other regional and application-specific garden brands and supplies. Participating categories in Pet include: Animal health and the brands ADAMS™ and ZODIAC®; aquatics and reptile and the brands OCEANIC SYSTEMS®, AQUEON® and ZILLA®; bird & small animal and the brands KAYTEE®, SUPER PET® and CRITTER TRAIL®; dog & cat and the brands TFH™, NYLABONE®, FOUR PAWS®, PINNACLE® and AVODERM®; and equine and the brands FARNAM®, BRONCO® and SUPER MASK®. We also provide a host of other application-specific pet brands and supplies. Central Garden & Pet Company is based in Walnut Creek, California, and has approximately 4,100 employees, primarily in North America. For additional information on Central Garden & Pet Company, including access to the Company's SEC filings, please visit the Company's website at www.central.com.

Contact:

Central Garden & Pet Company
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