

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response...	0.5

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* NOVOTNY GLENN W		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTRAL GARDEN & PET COMPANY [CENT]		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Pres./ Chief Executive Officer <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)	
(Last) (First) (Middle) 3697 MOUNT DIABLO BOULEVARD, SUITE 310		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/04/2004			
(Street) LAFAYETTE, CA 94549		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	
(City) (State) (Zip)					

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	03/04/2004		M		5,000	A (1)	\$ 6.81	88,148 (2)	D	
Common Stock	03/04/2004		S		5,000	D (3)	\$ 36.5002	83,148 (4)	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 6.81	03/04/2004		M				5,000	07/02/2003	07/02/2004	Common Stock	5,000	\$ 0	0	D	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
NOVOTNY GLENN W 3697 MOUNT DIABLO BOULEVARD, SUITE 310 LAFAYETTE, CA 94549	X		Pres./ Chief Executive Officer	

Signatures

/s/ By Nadine MacPhail, as Attorney-in-Fact for Glenn W. Novotny	03/04/2004
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Options exercised through sales plan pursuant to Rule 10b5-1(c)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(2) Includes shares of Central Garden & Pet Company's Common Stock held in the Reporting Person's 401(k) plan and acquired under Central Garden & Pet Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

(3) Shares sold through sales plan pursuant to Rule 10b5-1(c)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(4) Includes shares of Central Garden & Pet Company's Common Stock held in the Reporting Person's 401(k) plan and acquired under Central Garden & Pet Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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