

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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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* BROWN WILLIAM E		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTRAL GARDEN & PET CO [CENT]		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Chairman	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/16/2004		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
1340 TREAT BLVD., SUITE 600			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		
(Street) WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597					
(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	12/16/2004		M		70,000	A	\$ 7.54	83,200	D	
Common Stock	12/16/2004		F		33,351 (1)	D	\$ 40.73	49,849	D	
Common Stock	12/16/2004		G		8,430	D	\$ 0	41,419	D	
Common Stock	12/16/2004		G		6,000	A	\$ 0	6,000 (2)	I	By Spouse

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)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	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		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 7.54	12/16/2004		M		70,000	07/22/2004	07/22/2005	Common Stock	70,000	\$ 0	30,000	D	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BROWN WILLIAM E 1340 TREAT BLVD., SUITE 600 WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597	X		Chairman	

Signatures

/s/ William E. Brown	12/20/2004
<small>Signature of Reporting Person</small>	<small>Date</small>

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) Includes 12,959 shares tendered by the reporting person to the Issuer in payment of the aggregate option exercise price incurred upon the above-reported exercise of options and 20,392 shares tendered to the Issuer in payment of the reporting person's withholding tax liability also incurred in connection thereto.
- (2) Shares held by spouse of reporting person. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by his spouse, and this report should not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of such shares for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

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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