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) July 12, 2004 Central Garden & Pet Company (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter) 0-20242 Delaware 68-0275553 (State or other jurisdiction (Commission File Number) (IRS Employer **Identification No.)** of incorporation) 94549 3697 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, California

Registrant s telephone number, including area code (925) 283-4573

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

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Inapplicable

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

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Item 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On July 12, 2004, Central Garden & Pet Company issued a press release announcing its preliminary financial results for the third quarter of Fiscal 2004. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

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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: July 13, 2004