

May 4, 2005



Central Garden & Pet Announces Record Second Quarter Earnings for Fiscal 2005; A 14% Increase in Earnings Per Share to \$1.04; Innovation, Acquisitions and Margin Expansion Initiatives Drive Performance

WALNUT CREEK, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 4, 2005-- Re-Affirms Guidance of 10% Sales Growth and 25% EPS Growth for Fiscal 2005

Central Garden & Pet Company (Nasdaq:CENT) today announced record results for its fiscal second quarter ended March 26, 2005.

Net sales for the fiscal second quarter were \$378.9 million, an increase of 5.5% from \$359.0 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2004. Net income was \$22.4 million for the quarter, an increase of 19% compared to \$18.8 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2004. Fully-diluted earnings per share was \$1.04, compared to \$0.91 in the second quarter of fiscal 2004, an increase of 14.3%. Depreciation and amortization in the quarter was \$4.6 million.

Net sales for the Garden Products segment were \$220.4 million, an increase of 3.0% compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2004. Operating income for the Garden Products segment was \$24.2 million, a decline of 9.9% compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2004. Net sales for the Pet Products segment were \$158.4 million, an increase of 9.2% compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2004. Operating income for the Pet Products segment was \$23.6 million, an increase of 50.3% compared to the second quarter of fiscal 2004.

"We continue to post solid overall results," noted Glenn Novotny, President and Chief Executive Officer of Central Garden & Pet. "Our commitment to new product innovation, growth and development of strategic acquisitions, and incremental sales and operating leverage opportunities continue to drive margins and returns for shareholders. We believe we are on our way to achieving our outlined sales growth of approximately 10% and earnings per share growth of approximately 25% for fiscal 2005."

The Company reiterated its fiscal 2005 guidance of approximately \$1.4 billion in sales and an earnings range of \$2.44 to \$2.54 per fully diluted share. Included in this guidance is the contribution from Gulfstream Home & Garden, acquired in February 2005.

Net sales for the first six months of fiscal 2005 were \$644.4 million, an increase of 10.9% from \$581.3 million in the comparable period of fiscal 2004. Net income was \$24.9 million for the first six months of fiscal 2005, an increase of 36.8% compared to \$18.2 million in the comparable period of fiscal 2004. Fully-diluted earnings per share was \$1.16 for the first six months of fiscal 2005, compared to \$0.88 in the comparable period of fiscal 2004, an increase of 31.8%.

Net sales for the Garden Products segment for the first six months of fiscal 2005 were \$329.3 million, an increase of 7.3% compared to \$306.8 million in the comparable period of fiscal 2004. Operating income for the Garden Products segment in the first six months of fiscal 2005 was \$23.4 million, a decline of 2.5% compared to \$24.0 in the comparable period of fiscal 2004. Net sales for the Pet Products segment for the

first six months of fiscal 2005 were \$315.2 million, an increase of 14.8% compared to \$274.5 in the comparable period of fiscal 2004. Operating income for the Pet Products segment in the first six months of fiscal 2005 was \$41.7 million, an increase of 56.8% compared to \$26.6 million in the comparable period of fiscal 2004.

The Company will discuss its fiscal second quarter 2005 results on a conference call today at 4:30 p.m. ET. The conference call will be simultaneously broadcast over the Internet through Central's website, <http://www.centralgardenandpet.com/>. To listen to the webcast, please log on to the website prior to the scheduled call time to register and download any necessary audio software.

Central Garden & Pet Company is a leading innovator, marketer and producer of quality branded products for the pet and lawn and garden supplies markets. Our pet products include pet bird and small animal food, aquarium products, flea, tick, mosquito and other pest control products, edible bones, cages, carriers, pet books, and other dog, cat, reptile and small animal products. These products are sold under a number of brand names, including Kaytee, All-Glass Aquarium, Oceanic, Kent Marine, Energy Savers Unlimited, Zodiac, Pre-Strike, Altosid, Nylabone, TFH, Four Paws and Interpet. Our lawn and garden products include grass seed, wild bird food, weed and insect control products, decorative outdoor patio products and ant control products. These products are sold under a number of brand names, including Pennington, Norcal Pottery, New England Pottery, GKI/Bethlehem Lighting, Lilly Miller, Matthews Four Seasons, AMDRO, Grant's, Sevin and Over'n Out. 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/>.

"Safe Harbor" Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: The statements contained in this release which are not historical facts, including future earnings guidance, are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in or implied by forward-looking statements. These risks are described in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings including, without limitation, the resolution of litigation between the Company and Hebert Axelrod. Central undertakes no obligation to publicly update these forward-looking statements to reflect new information, subsequent events or otherwise.

(Tables Follow)

Central Garden & Pet Company

Consolidated Statements of Income

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	March 26, 2005	March 27, 2004	March 26, 2005	March 27, 2004
Net Sales	\$378,854	\$358,985	\$644,430	\$581,335
Cost of Goods Sold and Occupancy	251,980	246,959	431,515	407,238
Gross Profit	126,874	112,026	212,915	174,097
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	87,198	77,669	163,723	136,180
Income from Operations	39,676	34,357	49,192	37,917
Interest Expense	(5,610)	(4,459)	(10,908)	(8,564)
Interest Income	107	123	210	322
Other Income	1,974	985	1,654	270

Income Before Income Taxes	36,147	31,006	40,148	29,945
Income Taxes	13,775	12,162	15,260	11,746
Net Income	\$22,372	\$18,844	\$24,888	\$18,199
Basic Earnings Per Common Share:	\$1.08	\$0.94	\$1.20	\$0.91
Diluted Earnings Per Common Share:	\$1.04	\$0.91	\$1.16	\$0.88
Weighted Average Shares Outstanding:				
Basic	20,760	20,030	20,658	19,939
Diluted	21,515	20,803	21,391	20,646

Central Garden & Pet Company

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Unaudited)
(In thousands)

	March 26, 2005	March 27, 2004	September 25, 2004
Assets			
Current Assets:			
Cash and Equivalents	\$10,701	\$12,568	\$12,221
Restricted Investments	15,195	15,179	14,936
Accounts Receivable	237,044	225,381	183,979
Inventories	304,722	252,614	237,913
Prepaid Expenses and Other	21,919	10,766	15,811
Total Current Assets	589,581	516,508	464,860
Property & Equipment - Net	106,956	101,347	105,612
Goodwill	339,792	281,108	338,384
Deferred Income Taxes and Other Assets	70,803	54,374	51,341
Total	\$1,107,132	\$953,337	\$960,197
Liabilities & Shareholders' Equity			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	\$137,791	\$133,543	\$105,933
Accrued Expenses	82,613	55,663	64,948
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	1,750	1,027	1,025

Total Current Liabilities	222,154	190,233	171,906
Long-Term Liabilities	366,950	311,296	304,775
Other Long-Term Obligations	4,189	1,580	3,720
Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock	3,000	3,000	3,000
Shareholders' Equity	510,839	447,228	476,796
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Total	\$1,107,132	\$953,337	\$960,197
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SOURCE:

Central Garden & Pet Company