

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

Form 4

September 14, 2005

**FORM 4****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF  
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section  
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31,  
2005  
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burden hours per  
response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**SWEATT BLAINE III**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

**5900 LAKE ELLENOR  
DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330**

(Street)

**ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330**

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
Symbol  
**DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC  
[DRI]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
**09/12/2005**

4. If Amendment, Date Original  
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

☐ Director ☐ 10% Owner  
☒ Officer (give title below) ☐ Other (specify below)  
**EVP & President, New Business**

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check  
Applicable Line)  
☒ Form filed by One Reporting Person  
☐ Form filed by More than One Reporting  
Person

**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	09/12/2005		M		39,750	A	\$ 7.5833	346,392 D
Common Stock	09/12/2005		F		20,580	D	\$ 31.45	325,812 D
Common Stock								2,130,571 <sup>(1)</sup> I
								Savings Plan

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

**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)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 7.5833	09/12/2005		M	39,750	03/14/1996 <sup>(2)</sup> 09/14/2005	Common Stock 39,750

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
SWEATT BLAINE III 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE P.O. BOX 593330 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330	X EVP & President, New Business

## Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz., Attorney-in-fact for SWEATT, III, BLAINE, 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive,  
P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330, Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI) 09/14/2005

\_\_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).

The number of shares reported is based on a plan statement dated June 30, 2005 and is derived from an undivided interest in a fund

(1) consisting of both Darden common stock and a small cash position that fluctuates from time to time. The number of shares reported may change based on the size of the cash position at the time of reporting.

(2) The option vested 20% on 3/14/96, and 20% in four additional annual installments beginning 9/14/96.

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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