SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT

[X] ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998

OR

[] TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission file number 1-5725

A. Full title of the Plan and the address of the Plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

Piper Impact 401(k) Savings Plan

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the Plan and the address of the principal executive office:

> Quanex Corporation 1900 West Loop South, Suite 1500 Houston, Texas 77027 (713) 961-4600

The Benefits Committee Quanex Corporation Houston, Texas

Re: Piper Impact 401(k) Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Piper Impact 401(k) Savings Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 1998 and 1997 and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 1998 and 1997 and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedules of (1) investments as of December 31, 1998 and (2) 5% reportable transactions for the year ended December 31, 1998 are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental information by fund in the statements on net assets available for benefits is presented for the purpose of additional analysis rather than to present the net assets available for benefits of the individual funds. The supplemental schedules and the supplemental information by fund is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Such supplemental schedules and supplemental information by fund have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

June 1, 1999

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

	DECEMBER 31		
	1998	1997	
Assets: Investment at fair value:			
Mutual fund assets:			
Fidelity Puritan Fund	\$ 500,091	\$ 393,816	
Fidelity Magellan Fund	29,180		
Fidelity Contrafund	949,606	522,991	
Fidelity Growth & Income Fund	32,894		
Fidelity Intermediate Bond Fund		171,180	
Fidelity Retirement Growth Fund	446,819	254,730	
Fidelity Overseas Fund	2,178		
Fidelity Balanced Fund	5,826		
Fidelity Blue Chip Fund	2,241,863	1,399,981	
Fidelity Asset Manager Fund	307,494	216,111	
Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund	136		
Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund		273,551	
Fidelity Government Money Market Fund	398,700		
Templeton Foreign Fund	2,327		
Neuberger & Berman Partners Trust Fund	2,540		
Quanex Corporation common stock	69,928	42,176	
Common/commingled trust	406,465	150,845	
	5,396,047	3,425,381	
Participant loans	,	146,425	
	5,594,162	3,571,806	
Employee contributions receivable	161,998	176,609	
Employer contributions receivable	29,398	27,343	
	191,396	203,952	
Net Assets Available for Benefits	\$5,785,558	\$3,775,758	

See notes to financial statements.

QUANEX CORPORATION PIPER IMPACT 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

	December 31,		
	1998	1997	
Investment income: Interest and dividends Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 348,633 674,906	\$ 231,919 252,778	
	1,023,539	484,697	
Contributions:			
Employer Less forfeitures	239,388 29,413	240,468 9,434	
	209,975		
Employee	1,235,569	1,247,453	
	1,445,544		
Interest on participant loans	14,340	6,290	
Total additions	2,483,423	1,969,474	
Benefit payments Loan processing fees	468,421 5,202	163,966 4,914	
Total deductions	473,623	168,880	
Increase in net assets available for benefits	2,009,800	1,800,594	
Net assets available for benefits: Beginning of year	3,775,758	1,975,164	
End of year	\$5,785,558 ========	\$3,775,758 ======	

See notes to financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Piper Impact 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") is provided for general informational purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

- (1) General. The Plan is a defined contribution plan which covers substantially all full-time employees of Piper Impact, Inc. (the "Company"), a subsidiary of Quanex Corporation. The Plan permits eligible employees to elect a deferral of compensation under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code ("Code"). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). The assets of the Plan are held in trust by Fidelity Management Trust Company ("Fidelity"). The Benefits Committee (the "Committee"), appointed by Quanex Corporation's Board of Directors, serves as the Plan administrator.
- (2) Contributions. Participants may contribute to the Plan by electing salary deferrals between 1% and 15% of compensation as defined by the Plan document. The Company contributes 25% of the first 6% of base compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan. Contributions are subject to certain limitations. Additional amounts may be contributed at the option of the Company's Board of Directors.
- (3) Participant Accounts. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of the Company's contribution and Plan earnings, and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. Forfeited balances of terminated participants' non-vested accounts are used to reduce current or future Company contributions. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.
- (4) Investment Options. Participants may direct allocation of their contributions to the following funds:

Fidelity Puritan Fund - invests in domestic and foreign common stocks, preferred stocks and bonds.

Fidelity Magellan Fund - invests in equity and debt securities of foreign and domestic companies.

Fidelity Contrafund - invests in equities of foreign and domestic companies.

Fidelity Growth and Income Fund - invests in equity and debt securities of foreign and domestic companies.

Fidelity Retirement Growth Fund - invests in common stocks and other securities.

Fidelity Overseas Fund - invests in foreign equity and debt securities.

Fidelity Balanced Fund - invests in common and preferred stocks and bonds.

Fidelity Blue Chip Fund - invests in domestic and foreign common stocks.

Fidelity Asset Manager Fund - invests in domestic and foreign stocks, bonds and short-term obligations.

Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund - invests in domestic and foreign stocks.

Fidelity Government Money Market Fund - composed of short-term U.S. government obligations.

Templeton Foreign Fund - invests in foreign securities.

Neuberger & Berman Partner Trust Fund - invests in common stocks.

 $\ensuremath{\texttt{Quanex}}$ Corporation Common Stock - invests exclusively in the common stock of Quanex Corporation.

Common/Commingled Trust - invests in investment contracts issued by insurance companies, banks and other financial institutions.

- (5) Vesting. Participants are immediately vested in their contributions and earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's matching and discretionary contribution portion of their accounts plus actual earnings thereon is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 20% vested for each year of credited service beginning with his or her second year and is 100% vested after six years of credited service.
- (6) Payment of Benefits. The Plan is intended for long-term savings but provides for early withdrawals and loan arrangements under certain conditions. In accordance with the Code, upon termination of service, a participant may elect to receive a lump-sum distribution equal to the total amount of vested benefits in his or her account. As of December 31, 1998 and 1997, net assets available for benefits included benefits of \$23,075 and \$9,913, respectively, due to participants who had withdrawn from participation in the Plan.
- (7) Loans. Loans may be granted to a participant of the Plan at the Committee's discretion. Loan terms range up to five years or ten years if used for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans bear a reasonable rate of interest established by the Committee. Interest on the loan is allocated to the borrower's participant account. The participant pays loan set up fees and carrying fees to Fidelity.
- B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
 - Accounting Basis. The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
 - (2) Investment Valuation. The Plan recognizes net appreciation or depreciation in the fair value of its investments. Investments are reflected at fair value in the financial statements. Fair value of mutual fund assets is determined using a quoted net asset value. Fair value for Quanex Corporation common stock, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, is determined by using the last recorded sales price. The fair value of the common/commingled trust is at face value.
 - (3) Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of changes in the net assets available for benefits during the reporting period. The Plan's financial statements include amounts that are based on

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management's best estimates and judgments. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(4) Administrative Expense. The Company pays all administrative expenses.

(5) Payments of Benefits. Benefit payments are recorded when paid.

C. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

D. FEDERAL INCOME TAX STATUS

The Plan is subject to specific rules and regulations related to employee benefit plans under the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). The Plan is a qualified trust under Sections 401(a) and 401(k) of the Code and, as a result, is exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Code. The Plan received a favorable determination letter from the IRS dated September 30, 1998. The Company believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. Therefore, it believes the Plan was qualified and the related trust was tax-exempt as of the financial statement dates.

E. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, the Plan purchased and sold shares of Fidelity mutual fund assets, as shown below:

	1		1997			
	Shares	Cost	Sales Price	Shares	Cost	Sales Price
Purchases Sales	583,981 442,597	\$2,306,480 1,215,903	\$1,312,890	250,854 86,413	\$1,705,534 373,734	\$408,988

During the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, the Plan purchased and sold shares of Fidelity Common/Commingled Trust, as shown below:

		998	1997			
	Shares	Cost	Sales Price	Shares	Cost	Sales Price
Purchases Sales	351,332 95,712	\$ 351,332 95,712	\$ 95,712	105,387 37,741	\$ 105,387 37,741	\$ 37,741

During the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, the Plan purchased and sold shares of Quanex Corporation common stock as shown below:

	1998			1997		
	Shares	Cost	Sales Price	Shares	Cost	Sales Price
Purchases Sales	2,189 589	\$ 57,468 17,873	\$ 16,263	1,555 55	\$ 48,030 1,682	\$ 1,588

Contributions, benefit payments and investment income by fund were as follows for the years ended December 31:

		1998		1997
Employer contributions:				
Fidelity Puritan Fund	\$	24,329	\$	26,783
Fidelity Magellan Fund		1,405		
Fidelity Contrafund		39 , 573		37,704
Fidelity Growth & Income Fund		876		
Fidelity Intermediate Bond Fund				13,701
Fidelity Retirement Growth Fund		19,362		18,608
Fidelity Overseas Fund		109		
Fidelity Balanced Fund		251		
Fidelity Blue Chip Fund		85,239		87,097
Asset Manager Fund		13,831		14,557
Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund		92		
Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund		(2,866)		14,576
Fidelity Government Money Market Fund		(3,762)		
Templeton Foreign Fund		140		
Neuberger & Berman Partners Trust Fund		197		
Quanex Corporation common stock		8,309		5,045
Common/commingled trust		22,890		12,963
	 \$	209,975	 \$	231,034
	===	=======	===	=======

	1998	1997
Employee contributions:		
Fidelity Puritan Fund	\$ 129,257	\$ 139,215
Fidelity Magellan Fund	9,575	
Fidelity Contrafund	214,892	204,631
Fidelity Growth & Income Fund	5,319	
Fidelity Intermediate Bond Fund		67,476
Fidelity Retirement Growth Fund	99,432	95,104
Fidelity Overseas Fund	511	
Fidelity Balanced Fund	2,205	
Fidelity Blue Chip Fund	420,740	444,602
Asset Manager Fund	73,368	76 , 557
Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund	857	
Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund		121,081
Fidelity Government Money Market Fund	118,789	
Templeton Foreign Fund	603	
Neuberger & Berman Partners Trust Fund	940	
Quanex Corporation common stock	44,715	35,632
Common/commingled trust	114,366	63,155
	\$ 1,235,569	\$ 1,247,453

F.

	1998		1997
Benefit payments:			
Fidelity Puritan Fund	\$ 72,628	\$	17,800
Fidelity Magellan Fund	4,417		
Fidelity Contrafund	61,411		15 , 905
Fidelity Growth & Income Fund	1,374		
Fidelity Intermediate Bond Fund			8,822
Fidelity Retirement Growth Fund	38,880		9,986
Fidelity Overseas Fund			
Fidelity Balanced Fund			
Fidelity Blue Chip Fund	182,786		55 , 029
Asset Manager Fund	37,117		8,957
Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund			
Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund			32,630
Fidelity Government Money Market Fund	26,303		
Templeton Foreign Fund			
Neuberger & Berman Partners Trust Fund	83		
Quanex Corporation common stock	5,784		1,419
Common/commingled trust	37,638		13,418
	\$ 468,421	\$	163,966
	 	===	

	1998	1997
Investment income:		
Fidelity Puritan Fund	\$ 71,598	\$ 62,162
Fidelity Magellan Fund	4,357	
Fidelity Contrafund	209,626	80,320
Fidelity Growth & Income Fund	3,853	
Fidelity Intermediate Bond Fund	2,277	10,824
Fidelity Retirement Growth Fund	109,577	32,386
Fidelity Overseas Fund	7	
Fidelity Balanced Fund	507	
Fidelity Blue Chip Fund	555,258	250,281
Asset Manager Fund	40,480	34,017
Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund	(123)	
Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund	566	11,626
Fidelity Government Money Market Fund	16,718	
Templeton Foreign Fund	(229)	
Neuberger & Berman Partners Trust Fund	16	
Quanex Corporation common stock	(11,867)	(3,830)
Common/commingled trust	20,918	6,911
	\$ 1,023,539	\$ 484,697

ITEM 27-a SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENTS PURPOSES EIN: 76-0396886; PN 001

PIPER IMPACT, INC. PIPER IMPACT 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS DECEMBER 31, 1998

	Shares/	Q t	Current
	Par Value	Cost	Value
Fidelity Mutual Fund Assets:			
Puritan Fund*	24,917	460,975	500,091
Magellan Fund*	242	25,926	29,180
Contrafund*	16,721	777,692	949,606
Growth & Income Fund*	718	30,502	32,894
Retirement Growth Fund*	21,785	409,372	446,819
Overseas Fund*	61	2,212	2,178
Balance Fund*	356	5,397	5,826
Blue Chip Fund*	44,490	1,643,103	2,241,863
Asset Manager Fund*	17,682	308,997	307,494
Low-Priced Stock Fund*	6	131	136
Government Money Market Fund*	398,700	398,700	398,700
Templeton Foreign Fund	277	2,760	2,327
Neuberger & Berman Partners Trust Fund	141	2,596	2,540
Total Mutual Fund Assets		\$4,068,363	\$4,919,654
Quanex Corporation common stock*	3,099	85,943	69 , 928
Common/commingled trust*	406,465	406,465	406,465
Participant loans (bearing interest rates			
from 7.85% to 11%)		198,115	198,115
Total Investments		\$4,758,886	\$5,594,162

* Party-in-Interest

PIPER IMPACT 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF 5% REPORTABLE TRANSACTIONS DECEMBER 31, 1998

Series of Transactions

Description	Total Number of Purchases During the Plan Year	Purchase Price	Total Number of Sales During the Plan Year	Selling Price	Cost of Asset	Current Value on Transaction Date	Net Gain (Loss)
Puritan*	65	\$ 224,354	44	\$ 140,328	\$ 126,604	\$ 140,328	\$ 13,724
Contrafund*	65	367,587	38	80,756	70,718	80,756	10,038
Intermediate Bond*	4	10,244	3	183,265	180,349	183,265	2,916
Retirement Growth*	53	191,777	31	64,971	60,906	64,971	4,065
Blue Chip*	99	743,314	67	368,386	306,655	368,386	61,731
Asset Manager*	58	170,085	37	65,334	60,869	65,334	4,465
Retirement Money Mkt*	6	18,350	4	291,901	291,901	291,901	
Government Money Mkt*	70	507,885	47	109,185	109,185	109,185	
Common Trust*	64	351,332	53	95,712	95,712	95,712	

* Party-in-Interest

SIGNATURES

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Piper Impact 401(k) Savings Plan

Date: June 28, 1999

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION

23.1 Independent Auditor's Consent

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S CONSENT

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statement No. 333-22977 of Quanex Corporation on Form S-8 of our report dated June 1, 1999, appearing in the Annual Report of Form 11-K of the Piper Impact 401(k) Savings Plan for the year ended December 31, 1998.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Houston, Texas June 28, 1999