

QUANEX CORP  
Form 11-K  
June 28, 2006

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### FORM 11-K

Annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005**

**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:

Quanex Corporation 401 (k) Savings Plan

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

Quanex Corporation

1900 West Loop South, Suite 1500

Houston, TX 77027

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Benefits Committee

Quanex Corporation

Re: Quanex Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Quanex Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan (the Plan ) as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, 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 standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan 's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, 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, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2005, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is 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. This schedule is the responsibility of the Plan 's management. Such schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic 2005 financial statements and, in our opinion, is 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 21, 2006

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**QUANEX CORPORATION 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN**

**STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**

|   | <b>DECEMBER 31,<br/>2005</b> | <b>2004</b>          |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS:</b>                                |                              |                      |
| Participant-directed investments (see Note C) | \$ 85,172,406                | \$ 78,168,414        |
| <b>Receivables:</b>                           |                              |                      |
| Employee contributions receivable             | 317,688                      | 305,824              |
| Employer contributions receivable             | 324,806                      | 308,088              |
| Total receivables                             | 642,494                      | 613,912              |
| Total assets                                  | 85,814,900                   | 78,782,326           |
| <b>LIABILITIES:</b>                           |                              |                      |
| Excess contributions payable                  | 44,729                       |                      |
| <b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>      | <b>\$ 85,770,171</b>         | <b>\$ 78,782,326</b> |

## QUANEX CORPORATION 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE  
FOR BENEFITS

|  | DECEMBER 31,<br>2005 | 2004          |
|--|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>ADDITIONS:</b>  |                      |               |
| Contributions:   |                      |               |
| Employer (net of forfeitures)                              | \$ 3,329,358         | \$ 3,658,796  |
| Employee   | 3,134,180            | 3,657,743     |
| Total contributions  | 6,463,538            | 7,316,539     |
| Investment income:   |                      |               |
| Interest and dividends                                     | \$ 3,654,448         | \$ 1,595,410  |
| Net appreciation in fair value of investments (see Note C) | 2,255,961            | 6,549,696     |
| Net investment income                                      | 5,910,409            | 8,145,106     |
| Total additions  | 12,373,947           | 15,461,645    |
| <b>DEDUCTIONS:</b>   |                      |               |
| Benefits paid to participants                              | 8,555,033            | 7,486,178     |
| Administrative fees (see Note D)                           | 10,716               | 14,338        |
| Total deductions   | 8,565,749            | 7,500,516     |
| INCREASE IN NET ASSETS                                     | 3,808,198            | 7,961,129     |
| TRANSFERS BETWEEN PLANS (SEE NOTE G)                       | 3,179,647            | 44,292        |
| <b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:</b>                  |                      |               |
| Beginning of year  | 78,782,326           | 70,776,905    |
| End of year  | \$ 85,770,171        | \$ 78,782,326 |

**QUANEX CORPORATION 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN**  
**EIN: 38-1872178; PN 017**

**Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)**  
**December 31, 2004**

| (a) | (b)<br>Identity of issue,<br>borrower, lessor<br>or similar party | (c)<br>Description of investment including<br>maturity date, rate of interest,<br>collateral, par, or maturity value | (d)<br>Cost   | (e)<br>Current<br>Value |
|-----|---|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| *   | Fidelity  | Puritan Fund   | \$ 2,334,202  | \$ 2,389,350            |
| *   | Fidelity  | Magellan Fund  | 11,689,532    | 12,732,856              |
| *   | Fidelity  | Contrafund   | 9,075,145     | 11,875,681              |
| *   | Fidelity  | Growth & Income Fund   | 10,151,597    | 10,148,706              |
| *   | Fidelity  | Independence Fund  | 2,314,716     | 2,433,960               |
| *   | Fidelity  | Overseas Fund  | 1,470,815     | 1,881,928               |
| *   | Fidelity  | Balanced Fund  | 5,483,322     | 6,506,886               |
| *   | Fidelity  | Blue Chip Fund   | 4,802,209     | 4,995,941               |
| *   | Fidelity  | Asset Manager Fund   | 462,297       | 466,756                 |
| *   | Fidelity  | Low-Priced Stock Fund  | 4,931,960     | 6,078,143               |
| *   | Fidelity  | Government Money Market Fund   | 9,665,444     | 9,665,444               |
|     | Templeton   | Foreign Fund   | 1,190,814     | 1,387,824               |
|     | Neuberger & Berman  | Partners Trust Fund  | 1,198,516     | 1,343,161               |
|     |   | Total Mutual Fund Assets   | 64,770,569    | 71,906,636              |
| *   | Quanex Corporation  | Unitized common stock  | 4,269,729     | 6,657,949               |
| *   | Fidelity  | Common/Commingled trust  | 4,106,505     | 4,106,505               |
|     | Participant loans   | Loans maturing within 1.5 to 7<br>years, bearing interest at 5.0% to<br>10.5%  | 2,501,316     | 2,501,316               |
|     |   | Total Investments  | \$ 75,648,119 | \$ 85,172,406           |

\* Party-in-Interest

**QUANEX CORPORATION 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Quanex Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan (the Plan), formerly the Nichols 401(k) Savings Plan, provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for more complete information.

(1) **General.** The Plan is a defined contribution plan, which covers substantially all salaried and non-union hourly employees at the Nichols Aluminum and Homeshield locations and bargaining unit employees at the Lincolnshire, Illinois facility. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Fidelity Management Trust Company (Fidelity or the Trustee) holds the assets of the Plan in trust. The Benefits Committee (the Committee), appointed by the Company's Board of Directors, serves as the Plan administrator.

The Piper Impact 401(k) Plan was merged into the Plan on December 14, 2005.

(2) **Contributions.** Participants may elect to contribute from 1% to 50% (15% for bargaining unit employees at the Lincolnshire, Illinois facility) of their pretax annual compensation, as defined by the Plan, subject to certain Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limitations. Company contributions are made based on a percentage of the employee's compensation for each individual with at least one year of service and vary by location as defined in the plan document.

(3) **Participant Accounts.** Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, the Company's contribution, and the participant's pro rata share of investment earnings. Participant accounts are also charged with withdrawals, administrative expenses and an allocation of any Plan losses. Investment earnings and losses allocations are based on individual participant account balances as of the end of the period in which the income is earned. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

(4) **Investments.** Participants direct the investment of contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers 13 mutual funds, one common commingled trust and unitized Quanex stock as investment options for participants.

(5) **Vesting and Forfeitures.** Participants are immediately vested in their contributions and earnings thereon. Vesting in the employer contribution is based on years of credited service. A participant is 20% vested for each year of credited service and fully vested after five years. If a participant terminates employment prior to becoming fully vested, the nonvested portion of the employer contributions are immediately forfeited by the participant and utilized to reduce future employer contributions. Amounts forfeited during 2005 and 2004 were \$95,235 and \$159,463, respectively. In 2005 and 2004, respectively, \$104,883 and \$159,462 of forfeitures were used to offset employer contributions. The amount available for future use in the forfeiture account totaled \$12,530 and \$15,222 at December 31, 2005 and 2004.

(5) **Payment of Benefits.** The Plan is intended for long-term savings but provides for early withdrawals and loan arrangements under certain conditions. 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. Terminated participants with account balances of less than \$1,000 will automatically receive a lump sum distribution (\$5,000 before March 28, 2005).



(6) Participant Loans. Loans may be granted to a participant of the Plan at the Committee's discretion. Loan terms range up to five years or seven years if used for the purchase of a primary residence. Loans outstanding at December 31, 2005 mature within 1.5 to 7 years and bear interest at 5% to 10.5%. The interest rate charged is based on prime plus a percentage as defined by the Plan document. Interest on a participant's loan is allocated to the borrower's account.

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(1) Accounting Basis. The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

(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 using the last recorded sales price. The recorded value of the common/commingled trust is at net asset value which is composed of the fair values of the underlying assets held by the trust.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Management fees and operating expenses charged to the Plan for investments in the mutual funds are deducted from income earned on a daily basis and are not separately reflected. Consequently, management fees and operating expenses are reflected as a reduction of investment return for such investments.

(3) Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ.

(4) Administrative Expenses. The Company pays the administrative expenses of the Plan, except for loan set up and carrying fees, and redemption fees imposed on certain Fidelity funds.

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

(6) Risks and Uncertainties. The Plan utilizes various investment instruments, including mutual funds and common stock. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such change could materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

C. INVESTMENTS

The following are investments that represent 5 percent or more of the Plan's investments.

|                                       | December 31, 2005 |               | December 31, 2004 |               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
|                                       | Shares            | Amount        | Shares            | Amount        |
| Fidelity Magellan Fund                | 119,625           | \$ 12,732,856 | 131,609           | \$ 13,659,659 |
| Fidelity Growth and Income Fund       | 295,021           | 10,148,706    | 283,387           | 10,828,207    |
| Fidelity Government Money Market Fund | 9,664,444         | 9,665,444     | 10,003,809        | 10,003,809    |
| Fidelity Contrafund                   | 183,380           | 11,875,681    | 158,102           | 8,970,723     |



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|                                   |             |            |           |           |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund    | 148,828     | 6,078,143  | 150,943   | 6,075,441 |
| Fidelity Balanced Fund            | 346,849     | 6,506,886  | 300,410   | 5,353,315 |
| Quanex Unitized Common Stock      | 133,239     | 6,657,949  | 168,432   | 5,320,763 |
| Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio | * 4,106,505 | *4,106,505 | 4,555,599 | 4,555,599 |
| Fidelity Blue Chip Fund           | 115,764     | 4,995,941  | 98,800    | 4,120,938 |

\* presented for comparative purposes only

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During the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year) appreciated in value as follows:

|                              | 2005         | 2004         |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Mutual funds                 | \$ 1,564,706 | \$ 4,634,731 |
| Quanex unitized common stock | 691,255      | 1,914,965    |
|                              | \$ 2,255,961 | \$ 6,549,696 |

### D. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by Fidelity. Fidelity is the trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Plan for the investment management services amounted to \$10,716 and \$14,338 for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. In addition, the Plan invests in shares of Quanex Corporation unitized common stock. Quanex Corporation is the Plan sponsor as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions also qualify as party-in-interest transactions. As of December 31, 2005 and 2004, the value of Quanex Corporation unitized common stock held by the Plan was \$6,657,949 and \$5,320,763, respectively.

### E. 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 set forth in ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, the assets held by the Trustee under the Plan will be valued and fully vested, and each participant will be entitled to distributions respecting his or her account.

### F. 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. The Plan has received a favorable letter of tax determination dated June 19, 2003. As such, the Plan is a qualified trust under Sections 401(a) and 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) and, as a result, is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Code. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, the Company believes the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. The Company believes the Plan was qualified and the related trust was tax-exempt as of the financial statement dates.

### G. TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Account balances of \$3,179,469 were transferred into the Plan as a result of the merger of the Piper Impact 401(k) Plan on December 14, 2005. Account balances of \$44,292 were transferred between the Plan and the Quanex Corporation 401(k) Savings Plan for Hourly Employees in plan year 2004.

**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.

Quanex Corporation 401 (k) Savings Plan

Date: June 27, 2006

/s/ Thomas M. Walker  
Thomas M. Walker, Benefits Committee

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 23.1<br>Firm | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm   |
| 99.1         | Certification by chief executive officer and chief financial officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |

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