Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

LANDEC CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

California 94-3025618
(State of Incorporation) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

3603 Haven Avenue Menlo Park, CA 94025-1010 (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

1995 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

(Full Title of the Plan)

Gary T. Steele
President & Chief Executive Officer
Landec Corporation
3603 Haven Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025-1010
(650) 306-1650

(Name, Address and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copy to:

Geoffrey P. Leonard, Esq. Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP 1000 Marsh Road Menlo Park, California 94025 (650) 614-7400

(Calculation of Registration Fee on Following Page)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
1995 Employee Stock Purchase Plan				
Common Stock Reserved for Grant of				
Additional Shares	450,000	\$3.472 (2)	\$1,562,400.00 (2)	\$143.74

- (1) This Registration Statement shall also cover any additional shares of Common Stock which become issuable under the Plan being registered pursuant to this Registration Statement by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or any other similar transaction effected without the receipt of consideration which results in an increase in the number of the Registrant's outstanding shares of Common Stock.
- (2) Estimated in accordance with Rules 457(c) and 457(h) under the Securities Act solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. The computation is based upon the average high and low sale prices of the Common Stock as reported on the Nasdaq National Market on May 24, 2002, multiplied by

85%, which is the percentage of the trading purchase price applicable to purchasers under the Plan being registered.

PART I

Item 1. Plan Information.*

Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information.*

*Information required by Part I to be contained in the Section 10(a) prospectus is omitted from this Registration Statement in accordance with Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and the Note to Part I of Form S-8.

PART II

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") are hereby incorporated by reference:

- (a) The Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K, for the fiscal year ended October 28, 2001;
- (b) The Registrant's annual meeting proxy statement filed with the Commission on February 22, 2002;
- (c) The Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended January 27, 2002; and
- (d) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Commission under Section 12 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") on December 21, 1995 including any subsequent amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such information; and

All documents subsequently filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be part hereof from the date of filing such documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document which also is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Certain matters with respect to the legality of the issuance of the Common Stock registered hereby will be passed upon for the Registrant by Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Menlo Park, California.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Registrant's Articles of Incorporation reduce the liability of a director to the corporation or its shareholders for monetary damages for breaches of his or her fiduciary duty of care to the fullest extent permissible under California law (the "California Law"). Under the California Law, a director's liability to a company or its shareholders may not be limited with respect to the following items: (i) acts or omissions that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing and culpable violation of law, (ii) acts or

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omissions that a director believes to be contrary to the best interests of the company or its shareholders or that involve the absence of good faith on the part of the director, (iii) any transaction from which a director derived an improper personal benefit, (iv) acts or omissions that show a reckless disregard for the director's duty to the company or its shareholders in circumstances in which the director was aware, or should have been aware, in the ordinary course of performing a director's duties, of a risk of a serious injury to the company or its shareholders, (vi) contracts or transactions between the company and a director within the scope of Section 310 of the California Law or (vii) improper dividends, loans and guarantees under Section 316 of the California Law. The limitation of liability does not affect the availability of injunctions and other equitable remedies available to the Registrant's shareholders for any violation by a director of the director's fiduciary duty to the Registrant or its shareholders.

The Bylaws of the Registrant further provide for indemnification of corporate agents to the maximum extent permitted by the California Law. In addition, the Registrant has entered into Indemnification Agreements with certain of its officers and directors.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed. Not applicable. Item 8. Exhibits. See Exhibit Index on page 8.

Item 9. Undertakings.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
 - (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
 - (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement; and
 - (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement.

provided, however, that clauses (1)(i) and (1)(ii) shall not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those clauses is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement.

(2) that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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(3) to remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in a successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered hereunder, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

[Signature Pages Follow]

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Menlo Park, State of California, on this 28th day of May, 2002.

LANDEC CORPORATION

By: /s/ GARY T. STEELE

Gary T. Steele President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Gary T. Steele and Gregory S. Skinner, jointly and severally, his or her attorneys-in-fact and agents, each with the power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place or stead, in any and all capacities, to sign this Registration Statement on Form S-8 and any amendments thereto, and to file such Registration Statement and amendments, together with exhibits and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting to each attorney-infact and agent, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully as he or she might or could do in person, and ratifying and confirming all that the attorneys-in-fact and agents, or his or her substitute or substitutes, may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date	
/s/ GARY T. STEELE	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	May 28, 2002	
Gary T. Steele			
/s/ GREGORY S. SKINNER	Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	May 28, 2002	
Gregory S. Skinner	(Frincipal Financial and Accounting Officer)		
/s/ KIRBY L. CRAMER	Director	May 28, 2002	
Kirby L. Cramer			
/s/ RICHARD DULUDE	Director	May 28, 2002	
Richard Dulude			
/s/ FREDERICK FRANK	Director	May 28, 2002	
Frederick Frank			
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/s/ STEPHEN E. HALPRIN	Director	May 28, 2002	
Stephen E. Halprin			
/s/ KENNETH E. JONES	Director	May 28, 2002	
Kenneth E. Jones			
/s/ RICHARD S. SCHNEIDER, Ph.D.	Director	May 28, 2002	
Richard S. Schneider, Ph.D.			
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PART I

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<u>Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information.</u>

PART II

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SIGNATURES

POWER OF ATTORNEY

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EXHIBIT 5.1

OPINION OF COUNSEL

May 30, 2002

Landec Corporation 3603 Haven Avenue Menlo Park, CA 94025

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Landec Corporation

1995 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At your request, we are rendering this opinion in connection with the proposed issuance of up to 450,000 shares of common stock ("Common Stock") granted pursuant to the 1995 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "Plan") of Landec Corporation, a California corporation (the "Company").

We have examined instruments, documents, and records which we deemed relevant and necessary for the basis of our opinion hereinafter expressed. In such examination, we have assumed the following: (a) the authenticity of original documents and the genuineness of all signatures; (b) the conformity to the originals of all documents submitted to us as copies; and (c) the truth, accuracy and completeness of the information, representations and warranties contained in the records, documents, instruments and certificates we have reviewed.

Based on such examination, we are of the opinion that the 450,000 shares of Common Stock to be issued by the Company pursuant to the Plan have been validly authorized and, when issued in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, will be legally issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to this Registration Statement on Form S-8. In giving such consent, we do not consider that we are "experts" within the meaning of such term as used in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission issued thereunder, with respect to any part of the Registration Statement, including this opinion as an exhibit or otherwise.

Very truly yours,

/s/ ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP

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EXHIBIT 5.1 OPINION OF COUNSEL

QuickLinks -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

EXHIBIT 23.2

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 pertaining to the 1995 Employee Stock Purchase Plan of Landec Corporation, of our report dated December 19, 2001, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedule of Landec Corporation included in its annual report (Form 10-K) for the year ended October 28, 2001, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

San Francisco, California May 28, 2002

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EXHIBIT 23.2 CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS