MSU-PRL Brief History for web

* 1965: The Plant Research Lab is founded. It is sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), with the mission of studying radiation damage in plants and advancing the field of plant biology.
* 1969: The MSU-AEC Plant Research Lab is fully staffed and moved into its quarters
* 1975 – 1978: The Atomic Energy Commission is replaced by the Department of Energy. The institute’s name is now the MSU-DOE Plant Research Laboratory, and the mission is to study basic plant processes, especially with regard to the growth of plants as a renewable resource.
* 1997: First group projects were initiated involving multiple researchers from the PRL and other departments. The aim was to tackle big scientific problems that are impossible to do in individual labs.
* 2006: The Department of Energy, Division of Chemical Sciences, Geosciences and Biosciences, Office of Basic Energy Sciences reprioritizes its program goals, changing the focus to fundamental aspects of energy and carbon capture, conversion, and deposition in energy-rich molecules. The PRL adapts accordingly.
* 2013: The group project model started in the 90s, becomes the norm for all research funded by the Department of Energy, Division of Chemical Sciences, Geosciences and Biosciences, Office of Basic Energy Sciences at the PRL. Since this change in approach, we pursue 3 major group projects at any one time.
* 2015: The PRL celebrates its 50th anniversary.