MSU-PRL Brief History for web

* **1965**: **We are founded to study radiation in plants**. It is sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), with the mission of studying radiation damage in plants in case of a nuclear disaster and advancing the field of plant biology.
* **1969**: The MSU-AEC Plant Research Lab is fully staffed and moved into its new quarters.
* **1975 – 1978**: **We get a new name**. The Atomic Energy Commission is replaced by the Department of Energy. We are now called the MSU-DOE Plant Research Laboratory, and our mission is to study basic plant processes, especially with regard to the growth of plants as a renewable resource.
* **1997**: **Group projects begin.** We start our first group projects involving multiple researchers from the PRL and beyond. The goal is to tackle big scientific problems that are impossible to do in individual labs.
* **2006**: **New research goal: Photosynthesis**. Research at the PRL was redirected to better match the priorities of the two Biosciences programs (Photosynthetic Systems and Physical Biosciences) in DOE’s Office of Basic Energy Sciences, addressing the fundamental science of energy capture, conversion, and storage in plants and microbes.
* **2013**: **Group projects model**. The group project model started in the 90s becomes the norm for all our research funded by the Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences. At any one time, we pursue three major group projects involving all 12 labs.
* **2015**: The PRL celebrates its 50th anniversary.