



GDCB LOOMIS LECTURE SERIES

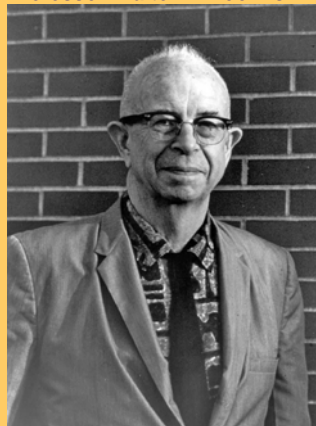
ABOUT THE LECTURE SERIES

The **Walter E. and Helen Park Loomis Fund** was established by the Loomis family in 1981 in memory of Walter and Helen Loomis in the hope of helping to preserve Walter Loomis's tradition for current and future generations of plant physiologists.

Professor Walter E. Loomis (1898-1977) came to Iowa State in 1927. His classic studies on translocation and photosynthesis and his comprehensive essays on differentiation and growth quickly established his reputation as an original thinker, resourceful experimenter, and advocate for the new field. He was recognized for his ability to teach students at all levels. He approached both teaching and research with vigor and enthusiasm and developed concepts with models whose influences have been enduring.

We are proud that he was associated with our department and we hope that these lectures, dedicated to his memory, will help preserve that tradition for those with whom he did not have direct contact.

Professor Walter E. Loomis



[More Information about Professor Walter E. Loomis](#)

The **Walter E. and Helen Park Loomis Fund** is administered by the Department of Genetics, Development and Cell Biology

FALL 2009 LECTURES

The Department of Genetics, Development, and Cell Biology is pleased to announce the inauguration of a new departmental lecture series named in honor of Walter E. and Helen Parke Loomis.

September 18, 2009

Dr. Gregg A. Howe

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
Michigan State University

Molecular Mechanism of Jasmonate Signaling: Managing Plant Stress in Hostile Environments

Host: Dr. Steven Rodermel

November 6, 2009

Dr. Olga Danilevskaya

Department of Agrinomic Traits, Discovery and Validation,
Pioneer International

"Genetic control of the floral transition in maize"

Host: Dr. Erik Vollbrecht

November 20, 2009

Dr. Kelly Dawe

Department of Plant Biology and Genetics
University of Georgia

"High frequency gene conversion in centromere cores"

Host: Dr. Carolyn Lawrence

December 4, 2009

Dr. Pamela Ronald

Department of Plant Pathology
University of California, Davis

"TBD"

Host: Dr. Bing Yang

All lectures take place on Friday's at 4:10pm in 1414 Molecular Biology Building, unless otherwise noted. Refreshments precede the lecture.

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT AND CELL BIOLOGY

EGDCB



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LECTURES

Fall 2009

September 18, 2009

[Dr. Gregg A. Howe](#)

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Michigan State University

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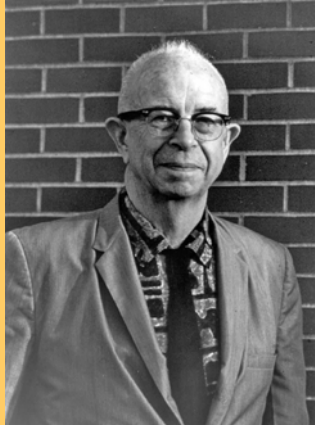
Department of Plant Biology & Genetics, University of Georgia

December 4, 2009

[Dr. Pamela Ronald](#)

Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis

Professor Walter E. Loomis



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ABOUT PROFESSOR WALTER E. LOOMIS

Professor Walter E. Loomis (1898-1977) enjoyed a distinguished career at Iowa State University as professional leader, renowned teacher, and innovative and imaginative investigator in plant science. He was born near Makanda, Illinois, and raised on a farm devoted to woodlands and to fruit and vegetable production. His experiences as a youth profoundly influenced his approach to science and served him well in guiding ideas, conceived at the laboratory bench, to application in the farmer's field. After a year helping his father homestead a new farm in the Snake River Valley of Idaho and military service in France with the A.E.F., Walter Loomis returned to school and graduated in just two years with honors from the University of Illinois with a major in horticulture. He then enrolled at Cornell University as Professor H. C. Thompson's first Ph.D. student in vegetable crops. He began his own career in the new field of plant physiology with the completion of his Ph.D. thesis entitled "Studies in the transplanting of vegetable plants."

He came to Iowa State in 1927. His classic studies on translocation and photosynthesis and his comprehensive essays on differentiation and growth quickly established his reputation as an original thinker, resourceful experimenter, and advocate for the new field.

His research and that of his students comprised a broad spectrum of disciplines. But his ability to explain the behavior of both managed and natural plant communities provided a strong common dimension. His keen insight was supported by great attention to detail and the application of innovative scientific methods. He maintained the "whole plant" perspective and his studies provided essential links to agriculture and forestry.

Professor Loomis was active in many professional organizations but was especially involved in the American Society of Plant Physiologists, a group he helped to organize. The influence of this organization is truly international; from its inception it has been a dominant force in contemporary plant physiology throughout the world. Professor Loomis held all elective offices in this society and served as its president in 1942-43. As monograph editor he was responsible for "Photosynthesis in Plants" (1949) and "Differentiation in Plants" (1953). In 1957 the society's prestigious Charles Reid Barnes Life Membership Award was conferred on Professor Loomis. Thousands of students have been introduced to botany through the lucid style of his text with Carl Wilson. A series of translations of this book have extended his influence on botanical education far beyond the borders of this country.

Professor Loomis was recognized for his ability to teach students at all levels. He approached both teaching and research with vigor and enthusiasm and developed concepts with models whose influences have been enduring. He left a legacy in the tradition he established in plant science at Iowa State. His living legacy -- his many devoted students and his two sons, Walter D. and Robert S. -- continue to yield ideas originally nurtured by his influence. We are proud that he was associated with our department and we hope that this lecture, dedicated to his memory, will help preserve that tradition for those with whom he did not have direct contact.

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