Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Lloyd Peterson

Lloyd Peterson passed away at age 85 on March 25, 2016 surrounded by his family. Lloyd grew up on a farm in Oberon, North Dakota. He obtained his PhD in Soil Science at UW-Madison and was hired as a faculty member in the Department of Horticulture in 1958. Lloyd’s expertise was in soil fertility and plant nutrition management, as well as the development of new micropropagation techniques.

He also owned a strawberry farm in Sauk City. Lloyd served for 30 years in the U.S. Army’s 11th Airborne Division, retiring as a colonel. He met his wife Arlene at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in 1953. Lloyd made many contributions to horticulture during his career, and was particularly well-known for his long term fertility studies in South-Central Wisconsin. This work demonstrated how nitrogen fertilizer inputs led to soil acidification, an important finding for the development of soil management recommendations. Lloyd’s work also extended to fruit crops, where he worked on nutrient management in cranberries and made use of aeroponics to model nutrient-crop interactions. Lloyd’s cranberry nutrient research helped to define the plant’s requirement for the ammonium form of nitrogen, as well as the other macro- and micronutrients, a finding that had significant implications for grower crop management.

Lloyd taught the introductory course in the department for many years, helping hundreds of students learn about horticulture. Lloyd's infectious enthusiasm for horticulture education and his encouragement of students to pursue the discipline and to get excited about plants, plant research, and farming was legendary.

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