

C. R. Weber Award to Paola T. Perez

The 2008 C. R. Weber Award for Excellence in Plant Science has been granted to Iowa State University student, Paola T. Perez, a graduate student in the Agronomy Department. She is studying plant breeding with Drs. Reid Palmer and Silvia Cianzio. The award is given to outstanding Ph.D. candidates studying plant breeding and is named for Dr. C. R. Weber, a soybean breeder with the USDA and a long-time member of the faculty at Iowa State University.

Perez grew up in Cali, Colombia in South America. She has had a life-long interest in nature and pursued an undergraduate degree in Agronomy because of that interest and her passion to help with world hunger. Perez received a master's degree in plant breeding from Iowa State University where she studied soybean breeding. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in plant breeding.

Perez's PhD research focuses on examining the characteristics of perennial soybean flowers that attract insect pollinators for soybean hybrid production. She is also working to identify the regions of the soybean genome that impart resistance to attacks by insects and disease, particularly white fly and Brown Stem Rot.

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