

THE VALUE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

by

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NOTE: Dr. Fred V. Grau, President, The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation states, "This statement on graduate studies was written by Dr. W. H. Daniel, Purdue University and Musser Foundation Board Member. In it one may read the reasons why the Musser Foundation is committed to helping to finance exceptional students who are earning their advanced degrees. They are our FUTURE."

Advanced or graduate training in any scientific area is a vital component of technological advancements. The biological and scientific complexities demand intensive training and detailed research. The graduate program is the thread that binds together the problems, studies, solutions and responses.

Graduate study offers intense training in specific areas. Graduate research should be inovative and generally is based on problem solving.

The creative mind that responds to the current problems in turfgrass management offers us a better future. Preserving and improving our environment is an integral facet of the profession.

Graduate programs are based on recognizing a problem, determining methods of solution and arriving at satisfactory conclusions.

The research, preparation and defense of a thesis demands a soundly based problem delt with in a logical scientific manner.

Each graduate student is responsible not only to a graduate committee but has the resources and counsel of a group of professionals that represent a variety of disciplines.

The demands of a graduate program aid in the development of fertile minds and contribute to elevated levels of competence. The diversity of technology is well illustrated by the fact that there are many fields in which PhD degrees are granted at major universities.

A graduate program offers or provides the time for valuable interpersonal experience between staff and student. In most disciplines training for the Bachelor degree requires four years, the Masters, two years, and a PhD degree requires approximately three years - a nine year commitment for learning.

With an advanced degree, one is qualified to fill positions of teaching, research and/or extension as may occur in universities, institutes, industries and general business.

Informed and dedicated leaders have made possible the high level of technology we now enjoy. We must continue to provide well trained teachers and scientists for the future.

Seeking out and motivating bright minds and adequately supporting them during their years of training challenges the best of institutions and industry.

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