REPORT ON FOREST TREE IMPROVEMENT WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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The forest genetics program at the University of Michigan is concerned primarily with the training of graduate students and incorporates research activities carried on by graduate students and by members of the staff, During the last year the opportunities for specialization in the Department of Forestry have been promulgated for ten fields of graduate study, one of which is forest tree physiology and forest genetics.

Men qualified both in forestry and in fundamental botany are in demand for investigative work and for teaching. In particular, there are continuing openings for men trained in applied physiology and applied genetics, Students interested in these fields should look forward toward obtaining the doctorate with considerable work in botany, although there are openings at present on the master's level° A well-rounded forestry training is the best undergraduate preparation for these careers.

Desirable natural resources electives include the courses in forest soils, water resource management, ecology of the forest, silviculture of American forests, and research methods.

Desirable electives in other fields include the following courses in botany, chemistry, mathematics, and zoology: genetics, systematic botany, plant physiology, anatomy of the vascular plants, cytology, organic chemistry, statistical analysis, and quantitative methods in biology.

Work on the bibliography of forest genetics, being prepared for the Lake States Forest Tree Improvement Committee, is continuing and the project is due for completion during the 1955-56 academic year.

Research projects on provenance trials and a limited amount of tree breeding for research purposes have been carried on These projects were described in greater detail in the proceedings of the first Lake States Forest Genetics Conference in 1953.

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