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Graduate Research Assistantship
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

The Turfgrass Breeding and Genetics Program at Mississippi State University is looking for a Master's student to assist in the development of St. Augustinegrass and bermudagrass. The Turfgrass Breeding and Genetics Lab focuses on the development of new cultivars, genetic, and genomic research on important agronomic traits in warm-season grasses used for turf. Graduate programs will involve breeding population development and evaluation of experimental lines. Students will also have opportunities to gain experience in molecular marker systems (e.g. high throughput genomic sequencing), bioinformatic programming, comparative genomics, and marker-trait association studies such as QTL mapping and genome-wide association study.

Please visit the following web sites for information on the graduate programs in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences <https://www.pss.msstate.edu/students/index.php> and for more information on the application process, please visit <https://www.msstate.edu/future-students/apply/>.

Qualifications: Qualified applicants should have a B.S. degree in plant and soil sciences, plant breeding and genetics, agronomy, crop sciences, horticulture, or a related field. The student should possess strong willingness to work in field-based research and to learn molecular marker systems and data analysis skills, as well as excellent writing and communication skills. The successful candidate will be organized, creative, and excited about working in a collaborative group environment.

For more detailed information about the position and to apply, please contact Dr. Hongxu Dong (hd552@msstate.edu). The application should contain a letter of application, resume or CV, GRE and TOEFL score if available, and list of three references including names, email addresses, and telephone numbers. Applications will be reviewed immediately and continue until the position is filled. The anticipated start date for the position is Fall 2020.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, gender identity, status as a U.S. veteran, and/or any other status protected by applicable law. We always welcome nominations and applications from women, members of any minority group, and others who share our passion for building a diverse community that reflects the diversity in our student population.