

Fielding's Dash

There's a country and western song about the dash (-) on a person's tombstone. The essence of the song is that it's not the birth date nor the date of departure from this earth that counts, but rather the dash... those years in between. Dr. J. Fielding Reed (1912-1999) had a monumental dash. He was a great contributor to agriculture and mankind. You can read about some of Fielding's dash in this issue of *Better Crops*, pages 16 and 17.

A little piece of Fielding's dash could be found in this space in every issue of *Better Crops* since 1983. If you read the issue previous to this, you were treated to a piece Fielding gave me in August of 1997, shortly after doctors had told him he had three to six months to live. He said it would be his last. I couldn't accept that because his mind was still running at 90 miles a minute, and we still needed access to his thoughts...his genius. After some discussion, Fielding agreed to do 'a couple more' pieces. That was seven pieces ago, and we all benefited from those treasures Fielding gave us as he bravely fought his battle with cancer.

You, our readers, have made this page the most popular in *Better Crops*. That conclusion is based on your response to Fielding's writings. We would like to reward you for your loyalty and interest, so we plan to assemble all his 'editorials' into one publication and make them available to you. Watch for details in a future issue.

Thank you, Fielding, for all your contributions. You ran a great race.



B.C. Darst
Executive Vice President

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