Instructions to Authors: Agronomy Journal

Articles must be original reports of research not simultaneously submitted to or previously published in any other scientific or technical journal and must make a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge or toward a better understanding of existing agronomic concepts. The study reported should be applicable to a sizable geographic area or an area of ecological or economic significance and of potential interest to a significant number of scientists. Membership is not a requirement for publishing in Agronomy Journal (AJ). Consult the ASA—CSSA—SSSA style manual and recent issues of AJ for guidance. For questions not answered in the style manual (www.agronomy.org/publications/style/), consult Susan Ernst, Managing Editor (sernst@agronomy.org), or Carrie Cierwronka, Associate Production Editor (cc@agronomy.org).

Scope

After critical review and approval by the editorial board, AJ publishes articles reporting research findings in soil–plant relationships; crop science; soil science; biometry; crop, soil, pasture, and range management; crop, forage, and pasture production and utilization; turfgrass; agroclimatology; agronomic models; integrated pest management; integrated agricultural systems; and various aspects of entomology, weed science, animal science, plant pathology, and agricultural economics as applied to production agriculture. Notes are published about apparatus, observations, and experimental techniques. Observations usually are limited to studies and reports of unrepeatable phenomena or other unique circumstances. Review and interpretation papers are also published, subject to standard review. Contributions to the Forum section deal with current agronomic issues and questions in brief, thought-provoking form. Such papers are reviewed by the Editor in consultation with the editorial board.

Statistical Methods

Report enough details of your experimental design so that the results can be judged for validity and so that previous experiments may serve as a basis for the design of future experiments.

Means separation procedures are frequently misused. Such misuse may result in incorrect scientific conclusions. Pairwise multiple comparison tests (LSD) should be used only when the treatment structure is not well understood (e.g., studies to compare cultivars). Authors should be aware of the limitations of multiple comparison tests when little information exists on the structure of the treatments (Carrmer and Walker, 1985; Chew, 1980; Little, 1978; Nelson and Rawlings, 1983; Peterson, 1977; see also Chew, 1976; Miller, 1981). When treatments have a logical structure, orthogonal contrasts among treatments should be used.

Validation of Field Results

Experiments that are sensitive to environmental interactions, such as crop performance, usually should be repeated over time or space or both.

Symposia Series

Manuscripts resulting from symposia having appropriate subject matter will be considered for publication as a compilation in a single issue of AJ. Sets of manuscripts considered may originate from ASA, CSSA, or SSSA sponsored symposia or from appropriate subject matter symposia sponsored by other organizations. Symposia organizers desiring to publish a compilation of manuscripts in AJ must solicit the Editor with the following prospectus materials: (i) title, location, and date of the symposium; (ii) the organization affiliated with the symposium; (iii) names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of the solicitors; (iv) a short abstract (≤250 words) outlining the overall purpose of the symposium and reasons justifying why the manuscripts should be published as a compilation; and (v) titles and abstracts, written according to the Publications Handbook and Style Manual, for each paper to be considered for publication. Prospectus materials may be submitted to the Editor during any time of the year. Symposia papers are subject to the usual page and production charges for the journal.

Style

• Use a comma before the final item in a list of three or more items. For example: “Cores were inside plastic liners, capped, and stored on ice…”
• Define all abbreviations at first mention in the abstract or text and again in the tables and figures. Once an abbreviation is used, it should be used throughout the entire article, except at the beginning of a sentence.
• The Latin binomial or trinomial and authority must be shown for all plants, insects, pathogens, and animals at first listing.
• Both the common and chemical name of pesticides must be given when first mentioned. For example: “Atrazine (2-chloro-6-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-1,3,5-triazine) was included…”
• Identify soils at the series and family level, or at least the Great Group, at first mention. For soils outside the United States, give both the local identification and the U.S. equivalent. Up-to-date U.S. soil descriptions may be checked online (http://soils.usda.gov/technical/classification/sod/index.html).
• SI units must be used in all manuscripts. Non-SI units may be added in parentheses.
• Spell out numbers one through nine, except when used with units. For decimal quantities <1, place a zero before the decimal point. Use commas for the decimal separator. The comma is not necessary for four-digit numbers (e.g., 7372, but 7,372).
• Use the 24-h time system, with four digits for hours and minutes (e.g., 1430 h for 2:30 p.m.). Report dates with the day first, then the month, and the year last. Abbreviate months with more than four letters (e.g., 14 May 2005, 7 June 2007, 10 Aug. 2000, or 26 Sept. 2007).

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All accepted manuscript files will be edited in Microsoft Word 2003. Therefore, authors should compose manuscripts in Word (.doc files only; .docx files need to be converted). Other word processing software is acceptable, although authors should be aware of errors introduced during the conversion process (watch equations and special characters). Authors should not use word processing features such as automated bulleted and numbering, head and subhead formatting, internal linking, or styles. Use only one font and size. Manuscript text should be double-spaced, with no line numbering (line numbers will be automatically added to the pdf file created at submission and will not match the lines in Word).

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The typical sequence for a paper is title, abstract, a list of abbreviations, introduction (without any heading), materials and methods, results, discussion, summary or conclusions, references, figure captions (without any heading), and tables last of all. Some papers may have a theory section, a few have no materials and methods; the results and discussion section may be combined, and the summary may be incorporated into the discussion. If an appendix is needed, it comes before the references.

Title

A good title briefly identifies the subject and indicates the purpose of the study or the major findings. Use common names of crops where possible, and avoid abbreviations. The recommended length is 12 words or less.

Abstract

Each paper must have an abstract, a single self-contained paragraph of 250 words or less for papers and 150 words or less for notes. State the rationale, objectives, methods, results, and their meaning or scope of application. Be specific. Identify the crops or organisms involved, as well as soil type, chemicals, or other details important to interpretation of the results. Do not cite figures, tables, or references. Avoid equations.

Tables

• Start each table on a new page.
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• Spell out abbreviations on first mention in tables, even if they have already been defined in the text. The reader should be able to understand the table content without referring back to the text.

• Individual values in the body may be highlighted in bold or italic type or underlined, but shading is not allowed.

• In the body of a table, only the first word in a row should be capitalized (the exception would be proper nouns, which should always be capitalized).

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Prepare figures and provide them in high-resolution TIF or EPS files. This is the required format for the layout process. If a figure is larger than 100,000 K, contact the Headquarters Office [cc@agronomy.org] following acceptance to arrange for ftp transfer. (You will need to reduce the resolution for the review process, but the high-resolution version is needed for publication.)

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References


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