Instructions to Authors of Manuscripts for *Crop Science* (2003)

General Requirements

Full papers must be either reports of original research or critical reviews or interpretive articles. The journal also publishes Crop Registration papers, Notes, and Letters to the Editor. Submissions to *Crop Science* must not be previously published in or simultaneously submitted to any other scientific or technical journal. For the policy regarding publishing in nontechnical outlets, see *Publications Handbook and Style Manual* (ASA–CSSA–SSSA, 1998; http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/style98/).

Scope

Crop Science is the normal channel for publication of papers in plant genetics; breeding; cytology; metabolism; physiology; ecology; turfgrass; weed science; crop quality, production, and utilization; cell biology and molecular genetics; and plant genetic resources.

Articles reporting experimentation or research in field crops or reviews or interpretation of such research will be accepted for review as papers. Short articles concerned with experimental techniques, apparatus, or observation of unique phenomena will be accepted for review as Notes. Reports on new cultivars, elite germplasms, parental lines, genetic stocks, and mapping populations will be accepted for review as Crop Registration papers. Letters to the Editor are welcomed and are published subject to review and approval of the editor. When letters concern previous articles, the authors will be invited to reply; letter and reply are published together.

Submission Procedures and Preparation

Registrations. Cultivar, elite germplasm, parental line, genetic stock, and mapping populations registrations are published after review by the Crop Registration Committee. Submit Crop Registration manuscripts to the appropriate Crop Registration Committee subcommittee chair (or to the Crop Registration Committee Chair, if no subcommittee seems to fit). Addresses are listed in the masthead of each issue of the journal and at http://crop.scijournals.org/misc/registration.shtml.

See also "Suggestions to Contributors to *Crop Science*: Crop Registration Manuscripts" printed periodically in this journal.

Full-length manuscripts and reviews. Original research articles, Review and Interpretation papers, Short Communications, Letters to the Editor, and invited book reviews should be submitted as PDF files at http://www.manuscripttracker.com/cs/. Detailed instructions for creating and uploading PDF files can be found at this site, along with instructions related to logging on to the *Crop Science* Manuscript Tracker system. Alternatively, authors may send four complete printed copies directly to the editor whose area of specialty is most relevant to the subject of the paper; editor addresses and areas of specialty can be found in the masthead of each issue and at http://crop.scijournals.org/misc/edboard.shtml. Submit Review and Interpretation articles to the editor of the journal.

Creating manuscript files. Authors should keep in mind the following when preparing manuscript files. All accepted manuscript files will be edited on-screen in Microsoft Word format. Therefore, we strongly prefer that files be composed originally in or converted to Microsoft Word. Other formats are also acceptable, but be aware that errors are occasionally introduced during conversion from one format to another. Authors should avoid using word processing features such as automated bulleting and numbering, head and subhead formatting, internal linking, or styles. Do not use more than one font or font size.

The file should be double spaced and line numbered, with at least 2.5-cm margins.

Crop Science periodically publishes color illustrations, generally in the May–June and November–December issues.

Organization. On the first page, give the title, a byline with the names of all authors, an author–paper documentation footnote, a list of all nonstandard abbreviations used in the paper, and any other necessary footnotes.

An abstract is required and is normally the second manuscript page.

After the title page and abstract, the usual order of sections is an untitled introduction (which includes the literature review), Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions (optional), Acknowledgments (optional), and References, followed by any figure captions and the tables. Figures are the final pages. Results and Discussion may be combined and conclusions can be given at the close of the Discussion section. Start each section (including figure captions and tables) on a new page and number all pages, beginning with the title page.

Title and byline. A title gives the reader a clear idea of what the article is about; it should be brief and informative. Use common names for crops and avoid abbreviations. The usual limit for titles is 10 to 12 words (not counting "and," "of," and similar conjunctions and prepositions). Titles in a numbered series of articles may be longer.

Below the title, list the names of all authors. Place an asterisk after the name of the corresponding author (i.e., the person from whom reprints are to be requested).

Author–paper documentation. The author–paper documentation is a single paragraph. The first sentence lists the authors (without professional titles) and their complete current addresses. If a paper has only one author, or if all authors are from the same department and institution, omit the names (i.e., give the address only). For the corresponding author, provide an address that will be current during the first year or two after publication.

The second sentence lists institutional sponsors, with the institutional article number of similar contribution acknowledgment. Add such an acknowledgment if an author has moved and using the current address leaves no other mention of the involvement of the former institution. Other information such as granting, funding, or dissertation status may follow.

End the author-paper documentation paragraph with these two statements: "Received _____. *Corresponding author (e-mail)." The date received will be filled in by an editor.

Abbreviations. Use abbreviations sparingly, and try to use standard abbreviations. The CBE style manual (CBE, 1994) has an extensive list of internationally accepted abbreviations in biology and biochemistry. Prepare a list in alphabetical order of abbreviations used in your article. Do not include SI units, chemical abbreviations, or most common abbreviations such as those listed in the style manual (ASA–CSSA–SSSA, 1998, Table 2–1).

Footnotes. Footnotes are discouraged in text, but may be used when needed (typically for a product disclaimer). Number any footnotes consecutively.

Executive summary. Not required, but recommended, executive summaries should be brief (four or five sentences, with a 100-word limit). Summaries should include (i) a statement of the problem addressed, (ii) approach used in experiments, (iii) key results, and (iv) impact of findings. Summaries are published each issue in "This Issue in *Crop Science*."

Abstract. Abstracts are a single self-contained paragraph of no more than 250 words (1250 characters) for papers or 150 words (750 characters) for Notes. Abstracts should contain the rationale, objectives, methods, results, and their meaning or scope of application. Be specific. Identify the crops or organisms involved, the soil type, chemicals, and other details that are pertinent to the results. Do not cite references.

Nomenclature and identification of materials. Give the complete binomial and authorities at first mention (in Abstract or text) of plants, pathogens, and insects or pests.

Units of measure. The SI system (Système International de Unités) is required in *Crop Science*. Other units may be indicated in parentheses after the SI unit if this helps understanding or is needed for replication of the work. See ASA–CSSA–SSSA (1998, Ch. 7).

References. The author–year notation system is required; do not use numbered notation. In the list, arrange references alphabetically by author. All single-author entries precede multiple-author entries for the same first author. Use chronological order only within entries with identical authorship (alphabetizing by title for same-author, same-year entries). Add a lowercase letter a, b, c, etc. to the year to identify same-year entries for text citation. Do this also for any multiple-author entries that would otherwise result in identical citations in the text.

The style manual (ASA–CSSA–SSSA, 1998) and past issues of *Crop Science* provide examples. See other useful references in the following list (e.g., CBE, 1994).

Figures. Photographs should be glossy prints with good contrast of dark and light. Submit one complete set with each manuscript copy. Prepare drawings for graphs and charts either by computer and laser printer or with ink on heavy white drawing paper. Typewritten matter is not acceptable on graphs and charts. Give careful attention to the darkness and width of lines and size and clarity of type and symbols.

Whenever possible, use illustrations that can be reduced to one or two columns in width. A good size for a drawing is twice that of the published figure. To check legibility after reduction, make a trial reduction on an office copying machine. Photographs lose clarity when reduced and should be submitted as close as possible to final size.

A figure caption should be brief, but sufficiently detailed to tell its own story. Specify the crop or soil involved, the major variables presented, and the place and year. Identify curves or symbols in a legend within the figure itself, not in the caption. Define abbreviations in the caption. Define symbols used in the caption or in the legend. Be sure to indicate the scale for micrographs, either in the illustration or the caption.

Tables. Tables are used for reporting extensive numerical data in an organized manner. They should be self-explanatory. It is seldom necessary to use a table for fewer than eight items of data. Number tables consecutively. Table heads should be brief but complete and self-contained. Define all variables and spell out all abbreviations.

The *, **, and *** are always used in this order to show statistical significance at the 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001 probability levels, respectively, and cannot be used for other notes. Significance at other levels is designated by a supplemental note. Lack of significance is usually indicated by NS and needs a note only if the lowest level of significance shown is higher than the nonsignificance level. Example: **,*** Significant at the 0.01 and 0.001 probability levels, respectively. † NS, nonsignificant at the 0.05 level.

For supplemental notes, use the following symbols in this order: †, ‡, §, ¶, #, ††, ‡‡, ... Cite these symbols just as you would read a table—from left to right and from top to bottom, and reading across all spanner and subheadings for one column before moving on to the next. No matter where the asterisks first appear in a table, the significance note comes before any supplemental notes keyed to the other symbols. Be sure that applicable units are clearly expressed for the data (usually as a separate first row above the data rows).

An exponential expression (e.g., $\times 10^{-3}$) in the units line is often necessary to keep the length of data values reasonably short. This ambiguous expression must be referenced with an explanatory note (ASA–CSSA–SSSA, 1998, p. 60).

Publication Charges and Length of Manuscript

Full-length manuscripts accepted for publication in *Crop Science* are assessed a publication charge of $350 for members and $600 for nonmembers; the charge for registrations is $150 for members and $400 for nonmembers. Authors are also charged for the cost of illustrations beyond $15 for each paper, and there is an additional charge for color. For economy of space, the Materials and Methods section, references, and footnotes are set in small type.

Accepted Manuscripts

Both a printed copy and word processing file of the final accepted manuscript are required. The printed copy and word processing file must match exactly in all parts of the manuscript. Word processing files for the text and tables must be included; files for figures may also be included, but currently figures are reproduced from hard copy. Contact CSSA headquarters staff with further questions.

Useful References

ASA–CSSA–SSSA. 1998. Publications handbook and style manual. 2nd ed. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, Madison, WI.

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Council of Biology Editors Scientific Illustration Committee. 1988. Illustrating science: Standards for publication. CBE, Chicago, IL.

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Dodd, J.S. (ed.) 1997. The ACS style guide. A manual for authors and editors. Am. Chem. Soc., Washington, DC.

Jeffrey, C. 1992. Biological nomenclature. 3rd ed. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge.

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