

Instructions to Authors— *The Plant Genome*

General Requirements and Scope

Papers must be either reports of original research, critical reviews, or interpretive articles. Submissions to *The Plant Genome* must not be previously published in or simultaneously submitted to any other scientific or technical journal.

The Plant Genome will publish original research investigating all aspects of plant genomics. Technical breakthroughs reporting improvements in the efficiency and speed of acquiring and interpreting plant genomics data are welcome. Short articles (usually 4 printed pages or less) concerned with experimental techniques, database descriptions, method improvements, new analytical equipment, computational tools or other breakthroughs that significantly improve genomic data acquisition and analysis will be accepted for review as Science Notes. Science notes may also describe novel findings that do not require extensive background or discussion. The editorial board will give preference to novel reports that use innovative genomic applications that advance our understanding of plant biology that may have applications to crop improvement.

Submission Procedures and Preparation

All manuscripts should be submitted through the online submission tool (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/plantgenome>). Detailed instructions for submission can be found at this site.

Creating the manuscript files. Submit the main text document in a common word processing file. LaTeX or other typeset formats are not allowed. Manuscript Central will convert your original files into PDF format; please check this PDF “proof” before submitting. Check any Greek characters, equations, and figures carefully. If you have a character conversion, fix your word processing file by embedding fonts (in Word, go to Tools/Options/“Save” tab, and check “Embed TrueType Fonts”). If there is an error in the PDF you cannot fix, mention it in the cover letter so the editors and eventually Headquarters will be aware of the problem.

On the first page, give the title, a byline with the names of all authors, a list of author affiliations, a list of all nonstandard abbreviations used in the paper (standard abbreviations available on p. 22 of the style manual, <https://www.crops.org/publications/style/>), 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. 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.

Figures. Submit figures in high-resolution, individual files (one figure per file). All panels of one figure need to be in the same single file and on the same page if possible. Check your figures in the PDF proof generated by Manuscript Central, as the figures in the PDF may be used for publication. TIFF or EPS files are best for resolution (don’t insert these files into a word processing document because this will reduce resolution). Photographs and drawings for graphs and charts should be prepared with good contrast of dark and light. Give careful attention to the width of lines and size and clarity of type and symbols. Variables (e.g., r , x , y) should be italicized.

A figure caption should be brief, but sufficiently detailed to tell its own story. 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. Prepare tables with the tables feature in your word processor; do not use tabs, spaces, or graphics boxes. Each datum needs to be contained in an individual cell. Number tables consecutively. Table heads should be brief but complete and self-contained. Define all variables and spell out all abbreviations. Tables should be placed at the end of the main text document.

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.

For table footnotes, 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.

Title and byline. A title gives the reader a clear idea of what the article is about; it should be brief and informative. The usual limit for titles is 10 to 12 words (not counting “and,” “of,” and similar conjunctions and prepositions).

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 affiliation. The author affiliation 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). Institutional sponsors, with the institutional article number of similar contribution acknowledgment, should be included in this section. Other information such as granting, funding, or dissertation status may follow.

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

Abbreviations. 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.

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

Abstract. Abstracts are a single self-contained paragraph of no more than 250 words (~1250 characters—including word spaces). 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 and text) of plants, pathogens, and insects or pests.

Units of measure. The SI system (Système International de Unités) is required in *The Plant Genome*. Other units may be indicated in parentheses after the SI unit if this helps understanding or is needed for replication of the work.

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 lower-case 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 (see the Style Manual for examples, <https://www.crops.org/publications/style/>).

Revisions. All revisions to the manuscript during the review process will be made by the author only, and revisions will be given the same manuscript number, with an R number on the end (e.g.,

TPG-2008-04-0017-ORA.R1). Each revision has the opportunity for another round of review—the manuscript status “awaiting reviewer selection” is automatic and does not indicate a resubmission.

Cover submissions. If you have any images which highlight your paper, you may submit them along with your paper in the Manuscript Central system. Please be sure to label as “image” (not “figure”). Cover images need to be at least 300 dpi at actual size. Otherwise, a slide or glossy print provides high resolution and can be submitted directly to the Headquarters office on acceptance of your manuscript (attn: Managing Editor, *The Plant Genome*, 5585 Guilford Rd., Madison, WI 53711). Be sure to label it with the manuscript number and title and provide a descriptive caption and photo credit that will aid in the selection process. Also, please be aware that even if your image is not chosen for publication as the cover, images submitted to *The Plant Genome* may be used in other Society publications.

Publication Charges and Length of Manuscript

Full-length manuscripts accepted for publication in *The Plant Genome* are assessed a publication charge of \$1500 and \$200 per page after ten pages. Figures, tables are charged at \$20 per item. Supplemental data are charged at \$100 per item. There is no added charge for color figures.

Accepted Manuscripts

When your manuscript is accepted, you will receive notification, and the accepted files (word processing, PDF, and figure files in any format) will automatically be sent to Headquarters. You will hear from Headquarters upon receipt of your files.

Useful References

- ASA–CSSA–SSSA. 2004. Publications handbook and style manual. 3rd ed. Available at: <https://www.crops.org/publications/style/> (verified 27 May 2008). ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, Madison, WI.
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- Council of Biology Editors. 1994. Scientific style and format: The CBE manual for authors, editors, and publishers. 6th ed. Council of Biology Editors, Inc., Cambridge Univ. Press, New York.
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