

# Notice to Authors - Canadian Journal of Soil Science

## General Publication Policies

Authors may publish in this journal regardless of membership in the Agricultural Institute of Canada or its affiliated societies. Papers may be written in either English or French. Abstracts in both English and French are required for papers and Short Communications and, if not submitted by the author, will be prepared by the Journal at a nominal cost to the author or the institution.

**Content.** We welcome manuscripts in fields related to soil science and agrometeorology that contain new information of national or international interest and application. Authors will be asked to identify which of the journal topic sections is most appropriate for the paper. The sections are: Review or Topical mini-review; Ecology, biological processes and plant interactions; Composition and chemical processes; Physical processes and interfaces; Genesis, landscape processes and relationships; contamination and environmental stewardship; Management for agricultural, forestry and urban uses; or Open. Letters to the Editor may explain, amplify, or otherwise comment upon research published in the journal or other issues important to soil science.

### Submission of Manuscripts.

Manuscripts must be submitted online via the Canadian Journal of Soil Science [ScholarOne system](#).

When reference is made to manuscripts that are "in press", copies of the in-press manuscripts must accompany the manuscript submitted for review. An electronic version of the in-press manuscript must be uploaded to the appropriate section in OSPREY.

Manuscripts submitted to the journal must not have been concurrently submitted to other journals or posted on internet sites, either personal or institutional.

Authors are required to complete a [Manuscript Submission form](#), which must be signed by all the authors. The form may be returned by fax (613 594-5190), e-mail [journals@aic.ca](mailto:journals@aic.ca) or mail. The form is printed in the February issue and is available on the journal's web site.

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**Page Charge.** For submissions with at least one author who is a current member of one of the sponsoring scientific societies (CSAS, CSA, CSHS, CWSS, CSSH), the page charge is \$30.00 per page. For submissions from non-members the page charge is \$90.00 per page. Reprints will be available at a nominal cost; quotations will be sent with proofs. Authors buying reprints may request a pdf file of the final version of their paper. Authors may be charged for excessive changes in proof.

**Animal Care.** If applicable, authors must certify that animals were cared for under guidelines comparable to those laid down by the [Canadian Council on Animal Care](#) (Guide to the care and use of experimental animals, available from CCAC, Constitution Square Tower 2, 1510-130 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1R 1B1).

## The Manuscript

**General.** Submitted papers must be in 1-column format; the automatic word processor line numbering must be turned on. View a [sample](#) of a published paper -- note the format is the same for CJAS, CJPS, and CJSS. For style detail see the journal's [Operation Manual](#), available in PDF format on the journal's website. For matters not covered by the Operations Manual refer to Scientific Style and Format: The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers (6th edition, 1994) available from the [Council of Science Editors](#), Inc., Reston, VA 20190-5202. Webster's Third New International Dictionary, the Oxford English Dictionary or the Larousse Dictionary may be consulted for acceptable spelling. Consistency of spelling must be maintained throughout individual papers. Authors are urged to have one or more colleagues read the manuscript critically prior to submission. If English is not your native language and you think that having your manuscript professionally edited before submission will help reviewers better understand and evaluate your manuscript, independent English improvement services [are available](#).

**Title.** Keep the title brief, but include descriptive words to aid information retrieval. The title should reflect all the important aspects of the article.

**Abstract.** The abstract should not exceed 200 words or 50 words for Short Communications. State your rationale, objectives, methods, results and impact of the study.

**Key Words and Short Title.** Authors must include a list of key words or phrases with the manuscript. The list should be up to, but no more than six words or two- to three-word phrases chosen from the title, abstract and body of the paper. Authors must also supply a short title of up to 55 characters.

**Headings.** The title of the paper is in sentence capitalization. Main headings are capitalized, bold, and centred on the page. Subheadings are as follows: first subheadings, flush left, separate line, capitalize main words, bold. Second subheadings, flush left, separate line, capitalize main words, italic. Third subheadings, flush left, same line as text, capitalize first word, italic, followed by a period.

**Organization of Text.** The body of most papers should be divided into INTRODUCTION, MATERIALS AND METHODS, RESULTS, DISCUSSION, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and REFERENCES (note: the "Introduction" and "References" sections do not have headings).

**References.** Cite only literature that is highly pertinent; avoid multiple citations. Check each reference with the original article and refer to it in the text by the author and date. List multiple references in the text in chronological order. Use et al. when there are more than two authors, but give all authors in the references. Include in references articles that are in press (name journal and anticipated date of publication) but incorporate in text manuscript in preparation, unpublished observations, and personal communication. Refer to [Citing electronic publications in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science](#). Can. J. Plant Sci. 79: 473-474. Refer to [BIOSIS](#) List of Serials with Title Abbreviations (Thompson Scientific, 3501 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA) for accepted abbreviations for journals; only these may be used. Double check accuracy of all pages, volume numbers and dates.

**Example references (note bolding, spacing of initials, capitalization, punctuation):**

*Journal article:*

**Alkier, A. C., Racz, G. J. and Soper, R. J. 1972.** Effects of foliar and soil-applied nitrogen and soil nitrate-nitrogen level on the protein content of Neepawa wheat. Can. J. Soil Sci. **52**: 301-309.

*Book chapter:*

**Desjardins, R. L. and MacPherson, J. I. 1989.** Aircraft-based measurements of trace gas fluxes. Pages 135–152 in M. O. Andrea and D. S. Schimel, eds. Exchange of trace gases between terrestrial ecosystem and the biosphere. John Wiley and Sons Ltd., Chichester, UK.

*Web site:*

**Canadian Wheat Board. 2004.** The value of protein in wheat. [Online] Available: [www.cwb.ca/en/growing/wheat/protein.jsp](http://www.cwb.ca/en/growing/wheat/protein.jsp) [2005 Jan. 04].

**Enumeration and Measurement.** Use numerals whenever a number is followed by a standard unit of measurement: e.g., 1 g, 9 d; otherwise, use words through nine and numerals for larger numbers. The denominators of units derived by division should be written with negative indices. Do not use a solidus (/) unless the units are written in full, e.g., kg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, W m<sup>-2</sup>, but metre/second. See Scientific Style and Format for exceptions when describing a series of numbers. Report data in SI units (see [table of acceptable SI units](#)).

**Abbreviations.** For commonly used terms, consult Scientific Style and Format. A list of abbreviations should be included, which will be printed on the first page of the paper.

**Names and Terms.** Soil names should be based on the Canadian soil classification system wherever possible; other national or international systems may be used in addition. Geographic location names or numerical coordinates are encouraged where appropriate to facilitate indexing in international databases. Italicize or underline scientific names of organisms and include authorities only for organisms actually used in the investigation. Use cultivars for agronomic or horticultural varieties. Single quotes are used to enclose the name of a cultivar only when it follows the botanical name. Plant and animal species should be referred to by common name. The complete scientific name and authority should be given when the plant species is first mentioned in the text or in the abstract for those plant species used in the investigation, but is not required for common species of domestic animals. Pesticides should be referred to by their approved common name throughout the text; where no common name is available the full chemical name should be given at first mention in the text.

**Statistics.** The statistical design should be described briefly and clearly. Data should be analyzed and summarized by appropriate statistical methods; authors should examine closely their use of multiple comparison procedures. A measure of variability, e.g., standard deviation or standard error, must be provided when reporting quantitative data (see Letter to Editor, Can. J. Plant Sci. 60: 325-327). Consult Scientific Style and Format.

**Tables.** Study carefully the appropriate section in Scientific Style and Format. Suitable statistical statements on estimates of reliability should be included when quantitative data are shown. Denote footnotes using bold superscript letters in reverse order starting with z: <sup>z</sup>, <sup>y</sup>, <sup>x</sup>, <sup>w</sup>, <sup>v</sup>, <sup>u</sup> etc. Tables must be numbered, have a brief title, and be referred to in the text. Vertical rules are not accepted.

**Illustrations.** For accepted manuscripts, graphics files must be compatible with QuarkXpress. The following file formats are acceptable: \*.tif, \*.bmp, \*.gif, \*.eps. Word and WordPerfect graphics files are not acceptable for accepted manuscripts. Images should be of sufficient resolution to print clearly (minimum 150 dpi). Illustrations should be planned to fit one-column, two-column or full-page formats. Lines must be sufficiently thick (minimum 0.5 points) to reproduce clearly, and lettering and symbols must be in proportion to the illustration and large enough to allow for reduction without loss of clarity. Use clear, bold patterns; avoid the

use of fine grey-scale patterns, which may plug when printed. Abbreviations, units, etc., should follow journal style. Photographs are best submitted close to final size and should show good tonal contrast. Use uppercase letters to mark subdivisions. Colour photographs are accepted but authors are expected to pay the full cost of reproduction (\$750.00 per page). Contact the journal office for advice on how best to submit colour illustrations. Papers that do not have good-quality illustration will not be published.

**Special Punctuation.** Period after et al. (not italic); no comma between author s(s ) name(s) and year in text; no period after title of table.

**Short Communications.** Short Communications are open to short preliminary reports of important findings of usually not more than 2000 words. They might contain research results that are complete, but characterized by a rather limited area or scope of investigation, descriptions of new or improved techniques or equipment including data performance. Short Communications should contain only a few (usually not more than nine) references. Consult a recent issue of the Journal for format. Illustrative material should be kept to a minimum, usually not more than one table or figure. Abstracts are obligatory and shall be no longer than 50 words.

**SI Units.** See table below for examples of acceptable SI units.

Examples of SI units acceptable in the Canadian Journal of Soil Science

Quantity	Application	Unit	Symbol or expression of unit
Absorbed dose rate	Plant/livestock	gray per second	Gy s <sup>-1</sup>
Area	Land	hectare	ha
	Leaf	square centimetre	cm <sup>2</sup>
Concentration	Fertilizer	kilograms per hectare	kg ha <sup>-1</sup>
		micrograms per gram	µg g <sup>-1</sup>
	Solutions	grams per litre or	g L <sup>-1</sup> or
		mole per litre	mol L <sup>-1</sup>
Density	Soil	megagram per cubic metre	Mg m <sup>-3</sup>
Electrical conductivity	Salt tolerance	decisiemens per metre	dS m <sup>-1</sup>
Elongation rate	Plant	centimetre per day	cm d <sup>-1</sup>
Ethylene production	N <sub>2</sub> -fixing activity	nanomole per plant per second	nmol plant <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
Hydraulic conductivity	Water flow	metre per day	m d <sup>-1</sup>
Growth rate	Plant	gram per square metre per day	g m <sup>-2</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>
Interplanar space	Clay mineral structure	nanometre	nm
Ion exchange	Soil (cation exchange capacity)	mmole (+) per kilogram	mmol (+) kg <sup>-1</sup>
Ion transport	Ion uptake	mole per kilogram per second	mol kg <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
Length	Soil depth	metre	m
Light	Photonflux density (400–700 nm)	micromole per square metre	µmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
		per second	
Photosynthetic rate	CO <sub>2</sub> mass flux density	milligram per square metre	mg m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
		per second	
Pressure	Water potential	kilopascal	kPa
Radioactivity	Soil, plant	becquerel	Bq or s <sup>-1</sup>
Specific heat	Heat storage	joule per kilogram per kelvin	J kg <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>
Temperature	Soil and plant	celsius or kelvin	°C or K
Volume	Solutions	litre	L
		cubic metre	m <sup>3</sup>
Yield	Field and vegetable crops	tonne per hectare	t ha <sup>-1</sup>
		gram per square metre	g m <sup>-2</sup>
		gram per plant or plant part	g plant <sup>-1</sup> or g kernel <sup>-1</sup>

Units with two divisors should be written with negative indices (e.g., kg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). The use of a solidus (/) should be reserved for units written in full (e.g. mole/kilogram) or to separate a physical quantity and unit (e.g., yield/ha). Units should be chosen so that the numerical component falls between 1 and 10 or 1 and 100 when using one or two significant figures, respectively (e.g., use 31.2 mg rather than 0.0312 g).

Wherever possible the use of percent (%) should be avoided, but may be used in such instances as percent land area, percent of population, etc.