

Experimental Agriculture

1. Editorial policy

With a focus on the tropics and sub-tropical regions of the world, *Experimental Agriculture* publishes the results of original research on field, plantation and herbage crops grown for food or feed, or for industrial purposes, and on farming systems, including livestock and people. It reports experimental work designed to explain how crops respond to the environment in biological and physical terms, and on the social and economic issues that may influence the uptake of the results of research by policy makers and farmers. The journal also publishes accounts and critical discussions of new quantitative and qualitative methods in agricultural research, and of contemporary issues arising in countries where agricultural production needs to develop rapidly. There is a regular book review section and occasional, often invited, reviews of research.

Referees critically review each paper and one, where appropriate, may be asked to comment specifically on biometric aspects. On their advice the Editor accepts or rejects the paper, or returns the typescript to the author(s) for revision.

2. Preparation of manuscripts

Submissions. Manuscripts should be submitted online via our manuscript submission and tracking site, www.edmgr.com/eag. Full instructions for electronic submission are available directly from this site. If you are unsure of the suitability of your manuscript for *Experimental Agriculture*, please e-mail the abstract to the Journal Office before submitting online: expag@cambridge.org

To facilitate rapid reviewing, communications for peer review will be electronic and authors will need to supply a current e-mail address when registering to use the system.

When submitting your manuscript you will need to supply:

Manuscript file, with lines numbered, to include a title page with title, authors, correspondence details, abstract (200–400 words), main text, references and captions for tables and figures. Tables and figures should be provided as separate files and numbered as they appear in the text. Further guidelines for suitable electronic file formats can be found [here](#).

Covering letter, stating that the manuscript is an original contribution that has not been published elsewhere in substantially the same form, that it is not currently under consideration elsewhere, and that permission has been obtained for any copyrighted material used.

General. Before manuscripts are typed please study carefully the lay-out of material in a recent number of the journal and ensure that papers, as submitted, conform in detail to the accepted pattern (e.g. style of setting-out titles, sub-dividing the text and laying-out tables). Manuscripts which require a great deal of editorial work may be referred back to authors, and their publication is likely to be delayed.

Aim at a concise style. Large bodies of primary data are unlikely to be accepted. Numerical data must not be presented in two forms (e.g. in both tables and graphs). Papers should not normally exceed eight pages as printed in the journal (including tables, figures and the list of references), which corresponds approximately to a maximum of 14 sheets of A4 paper when typed in the manner described below.

Typescripts. The preferred format of a manuscript is as a Word file with all pages numbered consecutively including the references and tables (see notes for figures below).

The Editor, the Editorial Board, and the Publisher cannot accept responsibility for loss of, or damage to, manuscripts, and authors are therefore advised to retain copies of all materials submitted.

Spelling should conform to *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*. Whilst the Editors have no wish to impose a standard style, they will return, with suggestions for modification, manuscripts which do not conform to accepted standards of scientific publications, or are verbose or repetitive.

Title page. Give the following details on the first sheet:

- (a) A shortened title for running headlines. This should not exceed 48 characters counting each letter *and* space as one character.
- (b) The full title of the paper. To facilitate retrieval and indexing by modern bibliographic searching techniques, it is essential that the title is informative and contains the maximum number of relevant key words. Where appropriate the title should indicate the crop, the character of the investigation, the factors under review, and the climatic or geographic area in which the research was done.
- (c) The name(s) of the author(s) and the address at which the research was carried out. The present address(es) of author(s), if different from the previous item, can be indicated in a suitable footnote.
- (d) The address (normally of the senior author or of someone who will act on his behalf) to which correspondence and proofs should be sent.

Summary. Provide a concise factual statement, not longer than ten lines of typescript, of the purposes of the research and of the principal findings. Avoid any discursive matter. The preparation of the Summary, which requires a great deal of care, is the responsibility of the author(s), not of the Editors.

Introductory statement. The paper should open with a clear statement of the reasons for doing the research, presenting only essential background and not covering either the findings or the conclusions. At the time of first mention of every organism, cite the *complete scientific name* (genus, species and cultivar where appropriate). The generic name may be abbreviated to the initial thereafter. If vernacular names are used they must be accompanied, when they first appear, by the correct scientific name. Latin names should be underlined or typed in italics.

Materials and methods. Present the techniques used in sufficient detail to allow them to be repeated. Where appropriate, the details should include: a clear and concise account of experimental lay-outs; a description of treatments and general management; and a general statement about methods of statistical analysis. *Dates* should be given for the beginning event of each experiment.

Results. Present the principal findings of the research but do not discuss them. Include assessments of experimental variability (e.g. coefficient of variation) and of the statistical significance of the results, specifying the methods used for the analysis (but without showing any details of the calculations).

Units of measurement. All data *must* be presented in metric units, although equivalent local units may be given in parentheses when they are first mentioned, if authors consider this essential. Alternatively, conversion factors may be given as footnotes. The system of units known as SI (Système International d'Unités) *must* be followed as far as possible (see *Quantities, Units and Symbols*, 2nd edn (1975), The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1).

Tables. Each table must be cited in the manuscript. Number table in arabic numerals, give each an appropriate title, and pencil the author(s) name(s) at the top of each page. Avoid presenting tables that are

too large to print across the page: table width *must not exceed 80* characters, *including* spaces between words, figures and columns.

Figures. All figures must be cited within the manuscript, clearly numbered and supplied as separate TIFF or EPS files wherever possible. Line artwork to be saved at 1200dpi, black and white halftones at 300dpi and colour halftones at 300dpi. All figures to be labelled in a Sans Serif font and saved at the approximate size of reproduction.

Legends. All figure legends to be numbered and provided at the end of the manuscript after the references.

Discussion. Assess the scientific or practical significance of the results and relate them to other work.

References. In the text use the Harvard system of citation. Give the name(s) of the author(s) with the date of publication in parenthesis, e.g. Brown (1937), (Brown, 1937), (Brown, 1927a; Jones and Smith, 1942a, b; Smith *et al.*, 1950). Whenever a paper written by three or more authors is cited the list of names should be abbreviated (e.g. Brown *et al.*, 1980). The list of References *must* include all those cited in the text (and *vice versa*) placed in alphabetical order without serial numbering. *All* authors names should be given *for each paper* together with its *full title* and *the full name of the journal* in which it was published, thus

Bebawi, F. F. & Farah, A. F. (1981). Effects of nitrophoska and atrazine on relations between *Sorghum bicolor* and *Striga hermonthica*. *Experimental Agriculture* 17:425-430.

Bunting, A. H.(1970). *Change in Agriculture*. London: Duckworth.

Hawtin, G. C., Singh, K. B. & Saxena, M. C. (1980). Some recent developments in the understanding and improvement of *Cicer* and *Lens*. In *Advances in Legume Science*, 613-624 (Eds R. J. Summerfield and A. H. Bunting). London: HMSO.

Not more than fifteen papers should normally be cited, except in invited reviews. If the list is not in the correct form it will be returned to the author(s) for amendment, and publication of the paper may be delayed. The Editors will not check references: this is the responsibility of authors.

Online supplementary material. Relevant material which is not suitable for print production, such as movies or numerical simulations/animations, can be uploaded as part of the initial submission [designated as 'Supplementary Material (FOR review)']. Movies must be cited in the article and each individual file must be accompanied by a separate caption (in Word format). Accepted formats are .mov, .mpg, .mp4, and .avi, though they should be archived as a .zip before uploading. Each movie should be no more than 10MB. Upon publication these materials will then be hosted online alongside the final published article. Likewise, should there be tables or figures which are likely to be useful only to a few specialists or take up excessive space in the printed journal, these can also be published online as supplementary material.

Note that supplementary material is published 'as is', with no further production performed.

Proofs. An email alert will be sent to the corresponding author with a link for downloading a PDF proof. This author will be responsible for collating all co-authors marks. Authors are responsible for checking all numerical data, legends, captions and references. No further corrected proof will be sent to the author(s). Excessive alterations, other than corrections of printer's errors may be disallowed or charged to the author. Corrections should be made symbols in *British Standard 1219:1958*, or its shortened version *B.S. 1219c: 1958*, obtainable from the British Standards Institution, 2 Park Street, London SW1.

Offprints. 25 offprints will be sent free of charge to the corresponding author. Additional offprints may be ordered on the form sent out with the proofs.

Last updated 9th August 2011