Chapter 8. Journal Procedures

GENERAL PROCEDURES

All Society journals are submitted via an online submission service and undergo peer review. All papers, whether invited or volunteered, are subject to review. Once a paper is accepted, headquarters staff oversee its copyediting, typesetting, administration, production, and distribution.

The journal's managing editor oversees the steps in copyediting papers, typesetting, sending proofs to authors, preparing papers for publication, and producing journal issues.

See the section "Anonymous Review" in Chapter 1 for information on special preparations required for submitting papers to ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals. Papers not prepared according to this format will be returned to authors for revision before the paper will be reviewed.

Manuscripts that are released from a journal may be resubmitted after revision to the same or another ASA, CSSA, or SSSA journal.

See the document "ASA-CSSA-SSSA Editorial Policies" (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/editorial-policies) for information on the decision appeals process.

AGRONOMY JOURNAL

Agronomy Journal (AJ) is published six times a year by ASA and is the official publication of ASA. Papers submitted to AJ undergo a double-blind review process.

Scope

Agronomy Journal 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 modeling; statistics; integrated pest management; production agriculture; and integrated agricultural systems. See a recent issue of AJ for the specific Table of Contents topics.

Notes & Unique Phenomena 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 may be published subject to review. Reviews invited by the editor may have publication fees waived. 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.

Articles should make a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge or toward a better understanding of existing agronomic concepts. The study reported must be of potential interest to a significant number of scientists and, if specific to a local situation, must be relevant to a wide body of knowledge in agronomy. Papers dealing with production may necessarily be specific to a region or state.

Manuscript Handling

Manuscripts are submitted to AJ via the online submission system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/agron. For further details, see Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/aj/instructions-to-authors). The editor assigns the manuscript to a technical editor on the basis of the subject matter. The technical editor, in turn, assigns properly prepared manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a
minimum of two reviews. Associate editors notify authors when a manuscript is accepted; technical editors notify authors when a manuscript is released.

Authors are given 28 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

CROP SCIENCE

_Crop Science_ (CS) is published six times a year by CSSA and is the official publication of CSSA. Papers submitted to CS undergo a single-blind review process.

**Scope**

_Crop Science_ publishes scientific papers in crop breeding, genetics, and cytology; crop physiology and metabolism; crop ecology, management, and quality; seed physiology, production, and technology; forage and grazing lands; plant genetic resources; turfgrass science; biomedical, health beneficial, and nutritionally enhanced plants; and genomics, molecular genetics, and biotechnology.

The journal publishes original research, review and interpretation, and perspectives papers in all the above subject matters, as well as book reviews, notes, and letters to the editor.

**Manuscript Handling**

Contributions to CS are submitted via the online submission system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/crop. See Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors (dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/cs/author-instructions) for further details. The editor assigns the manuscript to a technical editor on the basis of the subject matter. The technical editor, in turn, assigns properly prepared manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or release of the paper to the technical editor, who makes the final decision and notifies the author.

Authors are given 28 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA JOURNAL

_Soil Science Society of America Journal_ (SSSAJ) is published six times a year and is the official publication of SSSA. Papers submitted to SSSAJ undergo a double-blind review process.

**Scope**

The journal publishes papers and notes on original research and comments and letters to the editor containing critical comments on papers published in one of the society outlets or elsewhere, editorial comments or comments by society officers, or personal comments on matters having to do with soil science.

Upon invitation of the technical editors, short critical reviews or essays on timely subjects may be published on a limited basis. Under certain circumstances and with approval of the technical editors, symposium papers may also be published in SSSAJ. Ideas for symposia can be submitted to the editor.

**Manuscript Handling**

Manuscripts are submitted to SSSAJ via the online submission system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sssaj. For further details, see Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/files/publications/sssaj-author-instructions-2008.pdf). The editor assigns each manuscript to the technical editor supervising the division in
which the paper will be reviewed. The technical editor then assigns the manuscript to an associate editor according to field of specialization. The associate editor obtains a minimum of two reviews. Associate editors have the authority to accept manuscripts for publication. Technical editors make the decision to release manuscripts.

Authors are given approximately 30 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

**AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL LETTERS**

_Agricultural & Environmental Letters_ (A&EL) is an online-only open-access, continuously published journal copublished by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Papers submitted to A&EL undergo a single-blind review process.

**Scope**

Papers are communications-length articles (generally 2,500 words or fewer). The journal publishes high-impact, broad-reaching, and timely research on major scientific advances in the entire range of the agricultural and environmental sciences.

_Agricultural & Environmental Letters_ uses an expedited review and publication process. With this goal, the editorial board evaluates manuscripts submitted to A&EL according to the following criteria:

- High-impact innovative results with broad implications at the forefront of one or several agricultural disciplines.
- Results with immediate impact on the research of others and requiring rapid publication.
- Instrument or methods manuscript introducing an innovative technique that makes new science advance possible, with immediate applications to agricultural disciplines.

Manuscripts describing cross-disciplinary research or addressing emerging issues are of particular interest.

**Manuscript Handling**

Manuscripts are submitted to A&EL via the online submission system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ael. For further details, see Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/ael/author-instructions).

All papers, whether invited or volunteered, are subject to review. The editor assigns the manuscript to a technical editor on the basis of the subject matter. The technical editor, in turn, assigns properly prepared manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. Technical editors notify authors when a manuscript is accepted or released.

Authors are given 10 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

**AGROSYSTEMS, GEOSCIENCES & ENVIRONMENT**

_Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment_ (AGE) is an open-access, continuously published, electronic journal copublished by ASA and CSSA. Papers submitted to AGE undergo a single-blind review process.

**Scope**

_Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment_ is a multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal focusing on papers in agriculture, plant, environmental, and soil sciences. The journal provides a venue for full-length articles that are not typically published in other prominent journals, including (i) experiments that are limited in geography or time (e.g. a single site-
year), (ii) soil survey data papers and other significant data sets, (iii) confirmatory papers, and (iv) results of experiments that report negative results (nonsignificant data that accept the null hypothesis) that are nonetheless important.

**Manuscript Handling**

Contributions to AGE should be submitted via the online submission system. See AGE's instructions to authors (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/age/author-instructions) and Chapter 1 for further details. The editor assigns each manuscript to a senior editor on the basis of the subject matter. The senior editor, in turn, assigns properly prepared manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or release of the paper to the senior editor, who in turns makes the final decision and notifies the author.

Authors are given 28 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

**CROP, FORAGE, & TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT**

_Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management_ (CFTM) is an online-only journal copublished by ASA and CSSA. Papers submitted to CFTM undergo a single-blind review process.

**Scope**

_Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management_ covers all aspects of applied crop, forage and grazinglands, and turfgrass management. The journal serves the professions related to the management of crops, forages and grazinglands, and turfgrass by publishing research, briefs, reviews, perspectives, and diagnostic and management guides that are beneficial to researchers, practitioners, educators, and industry representatives.

**Manuscript Handling**

Contributions to CFTM are submitted to the journal via the online submission system at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cftm. See Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/files/publications/cftm/cftm-instructions.pdf) for further details. The editor assigns each manuscript to a technical editor on the basis of the subject matter. The technical editor, in turn, assigns properly prepared manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or release of the paper to the technical editor, who in turns makes the final decision and notifies the author.

Authors are given approximately 30 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

**JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

_Journal of Environmental Quality_ (JEQ) is published six times a year by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Papers submitted to JEQ undergo a single-blind review process.

**Scope**

The journal publishes contributions under the headings of Technical Reports, Reviews and Analyses, Environmental Issues, Short Communications, Datasets, Special Sections, Letters to the Editor, and Book Reviews.
Papers in JEQ cover various aspects of anthropogenic impacts on the environment, including terrestrial, atmospheric, and aquatic systems. Emphasis is given to the understanding of underlying processes rather than to monitoring.

Technical reports published in JEQ are grouped by subject matter. The subject areas are periodically reviewed by the JEQ editorial board and are subject to change. The subject matter areas include atmospheric pollutants and trace gases, biodegradation and bioremediation, environmental microbiology, environmental models, modules, and datasets, groundwater quality, landscape and watershed processes, organic compounds in the environment, plant and environment interactions, surface water quality, trace elements in the environment, urban pollutants, vadose zone processes and chemical transport, waste management, and wetland and aquatic processes.

The journal also frequently highlights topics in special sections.

Upon submission, the corresponding author designates the subject matter heading under which the article could logically appear.

Contributions reporting original research or brief reviews and analyses dealing with some aspect of environmental quality in natural and agricultural ecosystems are accepted from all disciplines for consideration by the editorial board. Manuscripts may be volunteered, invited, or coordinated as a special section. Book reviews may be invited by the editor.

**Manuscript Handling**

Contributions to JEQ are submitted to the journal via the online submission system at [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jeq](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jeq). See Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors ([https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jeq/author-instructions](https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jeq/author-instructions)) for further details. The editor assigns each manuscript to a technical editor on the basis of the subject matter. The technical editor, in turn, assigns properly prepared manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or release of the paper to the technical editor, who in turns makes the recommendation to the journal editor. The journal editor makes the final decision and notifies the author.

Authors are given 30 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

**JOURNAL OF PLANT REGISTRATIONS**

*Journal of Plant Registrations* (JPR) is published three times a year and is the official registration publication of CSSA. Papers submitted to JPR undergo a single-blind review process.

*Journal of Plant Registrations* publishes cultivar, germplasm, parental line, genetic stock, and mapping population registration manuscripts. Perspective or review papers on historical plant material, the registration process, or related topics may also be accepted with approval of the editor and after review.

**Manuscript Handling**

Contributions to JPR are submitted via the online submission system at [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/plantreg](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/plantreg). See Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors ([https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jpr/author-instructions](https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jpr/author-instructions)) for further details.

All papers, whether invited or volunteered, are subject to review. The journal editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor on the basis of the subject matter or crop. The associate editor obtains a minimum of two reviews and recommends to the journal editor.
acceptance or release of the paper. The journal editor makes the final decision and notifies the author.

**NATURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION**

*Natural Sciences Education* (NSE) is published continuously online by ASA. Papers submitted to NSE undergo a single-blind review process. All manuscripts published during a given year are combined into a volume for that year.

Cooperators in the publishing of NSE are the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, American Association for Agricultural Education, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the American Phytopathological Society, the American Society for Horticultural Science, the American Society of Animal Science, the American Society of Plant Biologists, CSSA, the Ecological Society of America, the Entomological Society of America, and SSSA.

**Scope**

The journal accepts reports of original studies pertaining to concepts of resident, extension, industrial, and K–16 education in the life sciences, natural resources, and agriculture. Reviews or digests of a comprehensive and well-defined scope are acceptable. The journal also accepts notes; articles describing Power Point presentations, computer software, and decision case studies; news features; profiles; media reviews; editorials; and letters to the editor. Articles may confirm and strengthen the findings of others, revise established ideas or practices, or challenge accepted theory, providing that the evidence presented is significant and convincing. Manuscripts based mainly on personal philosophy or opinion are acceptable if they conform to the above criteria.

**Manuscript Handling**

Manuscripts are submitted to NSE via the online submission system at [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nse](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nse). For further details, see Chapter 1 and the online instructions to authors ([https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/nse/instructions-to-authors](https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/nse/instructions-to-authors)). Appendix C contains guidelines for decision case studies, Power Point presentations, and software papers. The editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. Associate editors make their recommendations for acceptance or release to the journal’s editor. The journal editor notifies the author of the decision.

Authors are given 28 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

**THE PLANT GENOME**

*The Plant Genome* (TPG) is an open-access, electronic journal published three times per year by CSSA. Papers submitted to TPG undergo a single-blind review process.

**Scope**

*The Plant Genome* publishes 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. The editorial board gives preference to novel reports that use innovative genomic applications that advance our understanding of plant biology that may have applications to crop improvement. The journal also publishes invited review articles and perspectives that offer insight and commentary on recent advances in genomics and their potential for agronomic improvement.
Manuscript Handling

Manuscripts to TPG are submitted via the online submission system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/plantgenome. See Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors (dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/tpg/author-instructions) for further details. The editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor on the basis of the subject matter or crop. The associate editor obtains a minimum of two reviews and recommends to the journal editor acceptance or release of the paper. The journal editor makes the final decision and notifies the author.

Authors are given approximately 28 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

THE PLANT PHENOME JOURNAL

The Plant Phenome Journal (TPPJ), copublished by ASA and CSSA, is a continuously published online-only open-access journal. Papers submitted to TPPJ undergo a single-blind review process.

Scope

The Plant Phenome Journal is a transdisciplinary, open-access journal publishing original research, interpretations, and data sets investigating all aspects of plant phenomics. Methodological advancements in sensors, devices, vehicles, or technologies for data collection, data management, algorithms or data analysis should be combined with impact in at least one application domain of agronomy, genetic discovery, physiology, pest management, or plant breeding. Articles reporting breakthrough research in applications domains and new technological advancements will be accepted for review as papers. Papers may also include critical reviews or interpretive articles. Interpretations are encouraged to synthesize across crops, disciplines, and institutions. Short articles (usually four printed pages or less) primarily concerned with specific technological advancements that improve plant phenomics will be accepted for review as Science Notes and should describe the application domain. Data briefs (usually two pages or less) are papers that describe a large phenotypic data set submitted to the journal repository for community analysis. All data sets should adhere to best metadata and curation practices at the time of submission. Public comments on all published submissions are accepted and encouraged.

Manuscript Handling

Manuscripts are submitted via the online submission system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tppj. See the instructions to authors (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/tppj/author-instructions) for further details.

All papers, whether invited or volunteered, are subject to review. Papers are assigned by the editor to a technical editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews, followed by a recommendation for decision to the editor.

Authors are given 30 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

URBAN AGRICULTURE & REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Urban Agriculture & Regional Food Systems (UA), copublished by ASA and CSSA, is a continuously published electronic-only open-access journal. Papers submitted to UA undergo a double-blind review process.
Scope

Urban Agriculture & Regional Food Systems is a multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal focusing on urban and peri-urban agriculture and systems of urban and regional food provisioning in developing, transition, and advanced economies. The journal intends to be a platform for cutting-edge research on urban and peri-urban agricultural production for food and nonfood (e.g., flowers, medicine, cosmetics) uses and for social, environmental, and health services (e.g., tourism, water storage, care, education, waste recycling, urban greening).

Manuscript Handling

Manuscripts are submitted via the online submission system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/urbanag. See Chapter 1 and the instructions to authors (dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/ua/author-instructions) for further details. Papers are assigned by the editor to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews, followed by a recommendation for decision to the editor.

Authors are given 28 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.

VADOSE ZONE JOURNAL

Vadose Zone Journal (VZJ) is an online-only open-access, continuously published journal published by SSSA. Geological Society of America is a journal cooperator. Papers submitted to VZJ undergo a single-blind review process.

Scope

Vadose Zone Journal is a unique publication outlet for interdisciplinary research and assessment of the Critical Zone, which comprises the Earth’s critical living surface down to groundwater. It is a peer-reviewed, international journal publishing reviews, original research, and special sections across a wide range of disciplines. Vadose Zone Journal welcomes original contributions, reviews, and opinion papers across a wide range of disciplines that involve the vadose zone, including those that address broad scientific and societal issues (e.g., climate change, biofuels, sustainability, nanotechnology). The journal publishes contributions in the following categories: Original Research, Reviews and Analyses, Updates (short reviews of recent progress in a particular area), Technical Notes, Comments, Letters to the Editor, and Book Reviews. Priority Communications highlight research results that have far-reaching impacts across the vadose zone community. Reproducible Research publishes code and data alongside an article, thereby enabling readers to analyze data in a manner similar to that presented in the article and build on the results in future research and applications.

Vadose Zone Journal frequently highlights topics in special sections. The journal also gathers together published papers in 12 core trending focus topics: Critical zone research and observatories, Evapotranspiration, Hydrogeophysics, Permafrost and cold vadose zone, Preferential flow, Remote sensing of the vadose zone, Soil hydraulic properties, Soil moisture sensor development and calibration, Soil-plant and rhizosphere processes, Spatial-temporal dynamics of soil moisture, Transport of chemicals in the vadose zone, and Vadose zone models.

Manuscript Handling

Manuscripts are submitted to VZJ via the online submission system at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/vzj. For further details, see Chapter 1 and the instructions to
authors (https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/vzj/author-instructions). The editor or a co-editor assigns the paper to an associate editor, who distributes the paper for review. The associate editor recommends acceptance or release of the paper to the editor, but the authority to accept or release the paper rests with the editor.

Authors are given approximately 30 days for revision, after which time a paper is subject to release by the editor.