Submitting an Article to *Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management*? Consider a “Brief”

Peter Thomison, Editor

Since Jan. 1, 2015, there have been 112 submissions to *Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management* (CFTM). Ten CFTM articles were used in developing self-study CEU articles that were published in *Crops and Soils* magazine. *Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management* accepts several types of articles, including research, brief, review, management guide, and symposia. Most CFTM articles published are research articles, and the number of other article types published, including briefs, has been limited.

Briefs are short peer-reviewed scientific articles that report new findings and recommendations relevant to any aspect of the journal’s subject matter area. These include any topics appropriate to other areas of the same journal, except that they are shorter by nature. They can also include survey data, as well as responses to rare environmental stress, weather phenomena, etc.

Briefs provide a repository of science-based findings that are important to advisers, growers, diagnosticians, researchers, regulatory officials, other practitioners, and the public. Equivalent scientific rigor is required for briefs as in full research reports, including replication over time or space.

Although briefs are limited to 800 words and five tables, graphs, or high quality photographs, they can be very effective in conveying information to crop practitioners because their shorter format is more focused and “digestible.” To this end, the findings presented in briefs may have greater impact if they keep this constituency better apprised of ongoing scientific research.

For university faculty, as well as graduate students, extension specialists, and agricultural educators, results of smaller projects will fit easily into a brief, and this information may never be published if submitted to journals in longer formats. Briefs have been submitted primarily to the turf management area within CFTM, and we have found that high quality briefs can be highly impactful while being slightly simpler and quicker to write and review than traditional research papers.

If you need assistance in determining if a subject is appropriate for a brief, contact the appropriate CFTM technical editor (Zac Reicher—turfgrass, Daren Redfearn—forages and rangeland, and Kipling Balkcom—crops). Details on preparing a brief are available in the Instructions to Authors of Manuscripts for *Crop, Forage, and Turfgrass Management*. 