

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS**

### **AIMS AND SCOPE**

*Soil Science and Plant Nutrition* is the official English language journal of the Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition (JSSSPN), and publishes original research findings and reviews on soil science, plant nutrition and related subjects.

Members and non-members of JSSSPN are encouraged to submit manuscripts for publication. However, a publication fee, ¥10,000, per article will be charged upon acceptance of publication if the first author of the manuscript is not a member of JSSSPN.

### **Designation of the manuscript**

Papers in any of the following fields will be considered, and authors are requested to designate their manuscript according to one of these divisions on submission.

1. Soil physics
2. Soil chemistry and soil mineralogy
3. Soil biology
4. Plant nutrition
5. Soil genesis, classification and survey
6. Soil fertility
7. Fertilizers and soil amendments
8. Environment
9. Socio cultural soil science

Contributions are classified into three types as follows, and authors should indicate the type of manuscript on submission (the Editorial Committee may, however, request authors to change the type of contribution after review).

**Full-length paper.** Limited to eight printed pages, including references, tables and figures.

**Short paper.** A brief report on new findings or improvement of experimental methods, which requires rapid publication. Limited to four printed pages.

**Mini-review.** Includes an extensive review of a specific subject, or a review of a contemporary development or an issue focused on a certain area. Limited to eight printed pages. The Editorial Committee may ask members of the Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition or a suitable non-member (Japanese or foreign scientist and expert) to contribute a mini-review to the Journal.

### **EDITORIAL REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE**

The acceptance criteria for all papers are the quality and originality of the research and its significance to our readership. Except where otherwise stated, manuscripts are peer reviewed by at least two reviewers. Final acceptance or rejection rests with the Editorial Board, who reserves the right to refuse any material for publication.

Authors will be requested to revise their manuscript according to the reviewers' suggestions, comments and criticisms. The revised manuscript must be returned within two months.

Manuscripts should be written in a clear, concise, direct style so that they are intelligible to the professional reader who is not a specialist in the particular field. Where contributions are judged as acceptable for publication on the basis of scientific content, the Editor and the Publisher reserve the right to modify typescripts to eliminate ambiguity and repetition and improve communication between author and reader. If extensive alterations are required, the manuscript will be returned to the author for revision.

### **SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS**

All articles submitted to the Journal must comply with these instructions. Failure to do so will result in return of the manuscript and possible delay in publication.

Manuscripts should be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sspn>. All authors must supply their email address as all correspondence will be by email. The first author of manuscript who is a member of JSSSPN will also need to supply their JSSSPN membership number for online submission. Upon receipt of the manuscript, authors will be informed by email of a code number for their manuscript. This code number should be quoted in all correspondence about the manuscript thereafter.

Two files should be supplied: the covering letter and the manuscript (in Word or rich text format (.rtf) - this file will be converted to .pdf format for use during the review process.) The covering letter should be uploaded as a file not for review.

Submissions should be double-spaced.

All margins should be at least 30 mm.

All pages should be numbered consecutively in the top right-hand corner, beginning with the title page.

Do not use Enter at the end of lines within a paragraph.

Turn the hyphenation option off; include only those hyphens that are essential to the meaning. Specify any special characters used to represent non-keyboard characters.

Take care not to use l (ell) for 1 (one), O (capital o) for 0 (zero) or ß (German esszett) for β (Greek beta).

Use a tab, not spaces, to separate data points in tables. If you use a table editor function, ensure that each data point is contained within a unique cell (i.e. do not use carriage returns within cells).

Each figure should be supplied as a separate file, with the figure number incorporated in the file name. High-resolution figures (at least 300 d.p.i. at final size) saved as .eps (line artwork) or .tif (photographic figures) files should be uploaded. These will be converted to small .jpg files for ease of transmission during the review process. Digital images supplied only as low-resolution files cannot be used.

Further instructions are available at the submission site.

### **Covering letter**

Papers are accepted for publication in the Journal on the understanding that the content has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere. This must be stated in the covering letter.

The covering letter must also contain an acknowledgement that all authors have contributed significantly, and that all authors are in agreement with the content of the manuscript.

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Any experiments involving animals must be demonstrated to be ethically acceptable and where relevant conform to national guidelines for animal usage in research.

When the research is carried out in areas for which research permits are required (e.g. nature reserves), or when it deals with organisms for which collection or import/export permits are required (e.g. protected species), the authors must clearly detail obtaining these permits in the Acknowledgements section.

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### **STYLE OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

**Spelling.** The Journal uses US spelling and authors should therefore follow the latest edition of the *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*.

**Units.** All measurements must be given in SI or SI-derived units.

**Abbreviations.** Abbreviations should be used sparingly - only where they ease the reader's task by reducing repetition of long, technical terms. Initially use the word in full, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Thereafter use the abbreviation only.

**Scientific names.** Upon its first use in the title, abstract and text, the common name of a plant, insect, animal or microorganism should be followed by the scientific name (genus, species and authority) in parentheses.

**Soil nomenclature.** For soil nomenclature, an international classification system (e.g. the FAO-UNESCO system or USDA Soil Taxonomy) may be included as a reference, when a local classification is presented.

**Chemical nomenclature.** For chemical nomenclature, recommendations by the convention of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry should be followed.

**Genetic nomenclature.** Standard genetic nomenclature should be used.

Publication in *Soil Science and Plant Nutrition* implies an obligation on the part of authors to deposit any novel nucleic acid sequence data referred to in their papers with the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ). Deposition of such data should, at the latest, be made immediately after the paper has been accepted for publication, so that the authors can add the relevant accession number at the end of the text at the page proof stage. Details of how to submit data to DDBJ can be found at <http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp>.

The suggested wording for referring to accession-number information is: 'These sequence data have been submitted to the DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank databases under accession number U12345.'

**Formulae.** Simple fractions should be written as  $T_{i+1}/T_i$  (not  $T_{i+1} \div T_i$ ). For chemical formulae, valence of ion should be indicated as  $Ca^{2+}$  or  $SO_4^{2-}$  (not  $Ca^{++}$  or  $SO_4^{--}$ ). Isotope numbers should precede the symbols (e.g.  $^{14}C$  or  $(^{15}NH_4)_2SO_4$ ). Complicated formulae should be drawn on a separate page.

### **PARTS OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

Manuscripts should be presented in the following order: (i) title page, (ii) abstract and key

words, (iii) text, (iv) acknowledgements, (v) references, (vi) appendices, (vii) figure legends, (viii) tables (each table complete with title and footnotes) and (ix) figures. Footnotes to the text are not allowed and any such material should be incorporated into the text as parenthetical matter.

### **Title page**

The title page should contain (i) the title of the paper, (ii) the full names of the authors and (iii) the addresses of the institutions at which the work was carried out together with (iv) the full postal and email address, plus facsimile and telephone numbers, of the author to whom correspondence about the manuscript should be sent. The present address of any author, if different from that where the work was carried out, should be supplied in a footnote.

The title page should also contain the type of contribution and division of the manuscript.

The title should be short, informative and contain the major key words. Do not use abbreviations in the title. A short running title (less than 40 characters) should also be provided.

### **Abstract and key words**

All articles must have a brief abstract that states the purpose, basic procedures, main findings and principal conclusions of the study. The abstract should not contain abbreviations or references.

Five key words (for the purposes of indexing) should be supplied below the abstract in alphabetical order.

### **Text**

Authors should use the following subheadings to divide the sections of their manuscript: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion. Short papers may have the Results and Discussion together as one section. It is not necessary to divide mini-reviews with these subheadings.

### **Acknowledgements**

The source of financial grants and other funding must be acknowledged, including a frank declaration of the authors' industrial links and affiliations. The contribution of colleagues or institutions should also be acknowledged. Personal thanks and thanks to anonymous reviewers are not appropriate.

### **References**

The Harvard (author, date) system of referencing is used (examples are given below). In the text give the author's name followed by the year in parentheses: Smith (2000). If there are two authors use 'and': Smith and Jones (2001); but if cited within parentheses use '&': (Smith & Jones 2001). When reference is made to a work by three or more authors, the first name followed by *et al.* should be used: MacDonald *et al.* (2002). In the reference list, references should be listed in alphabetical order.

In the reference list, cite the names of all authors when there are six or fewer; when seven or more, list the first three followed by *et al.* Do not use *ibid.* or *op cit.* Reference to unpublished data and personal communications should not appear in the list but should be cited in the text only (e.g. Smith A, 2000, unpublished data). All citations mentioned in the text, tables or figures must be listed in the reference list.

Names of journals should be abbreviated according to Chemical Abstracts or the Serial Sources for the Biosis Data Base, available in most libraries or from <http://www.biosis.org>. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references.

### *Journals*

Popp M, Kinzel H 1981: Change in the organic acid content of some cultivated plants induced by mineral ion deficiency. *Plant Physiol.* **47**, 525-531.

### *Chapter in a book*

Cheshire MV 1979: Analysis of hydrolysate for classes of sugar. In: Black CV (ed) *Nature and Origin of Carbohydrates in Soils*, pp 38-44. Academic Press, London.

In the case of publications in a language other than English, a notation such as '(in Japanese)' or '(in Japanese with English summary)' should be added.

### **Tables**

Tables should be self-contained and complement, but not duplicate, information contained in the text. Number tables consecutively in the text in Arabic numerals. Type tables on a separate page with the legend above. Legends should be concise but comprehensive - the table, legend and footnotes must be understandable without reference to the text. Vertical lines should not be used to separate columns. Column headings should be brief, with units of measurement in parentheses; all abbreviations must be defined in footnotes. Footnote symbols: †, ‡, §, ¶, should be used (in that order) and \*, \*\*, \*\*\* should be reserved for P-values. Statistical measures such as SD or SEM should be identified in the headings.

### **Figures**

All illustrations (line drawings and photographs) are classified as figures. Figures should be cited in consecutive order in the text. Figures should be sized to fit within the column (83 mm), intermediate (118 mm) or the full text width (170 mm). Magnifications should be indicated using a scale bar on the illustration.

Line figures should be sharp, black and white graphs or diagrams, drawn professionally or with a computer graphics package. Lettering must be included and should be sized to be no larger than the journal text. Avoid complicated symbols and patterns, and avoid shading.

**Figure legends.** Type figure legends on a separate page. Legends should be concise but comprehensive - the figure and its legend must be understandable without reference to the text. Include definitions of any symbols used and define/explain all abbreviations and units of measurement.

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Notification of the URL from where to download a Portable Document Format (PDF) typeset page proof, associated forms and further instructions will be sent by email to the corresponding author. The purpose of the PDF proof is a final check of the layout, and of tables and figures. Alterations other than the *essential* correction of errors are unacceptable at PDF proof stage. The proof should be checked, and approval to publish the article should be emailed to the Publisher by the date indicated; otherwise, it may be signed off on by the Editor or held over to the next issue.

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There are no publication fees for mini-reviews invited by the Editorial Committee. The Editorial Committee may pay an honorarium to the author of a mini-review.

Authors are charged additionally for color figures. The standard rate is ¥100,000 per page depending upon the figures.

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