

# Chapter 8. Journal Procedures

## GENERAL PROCEDURES

All ASA, CSSA, SSSA journals are submitted via an online submission service and undergo peer review. Each journal has an online instructions page, where authors can find up-to-date information on the journal's scope and paper types, as well as submission information. Authors can access the journal instructions via this page: <https://www.agronomy.org/publications/journals>.

All papers, whether invited or volunteered, are subject to review. After submission, the editor checks the manuscript for scope and general clarity. If the manuscript fits the scope of the journal, the manuscript enters the review process.

Authors asked to revise a paper are given a certain number of days to complete the revision (which varies by journal and type of revision, major or minor), after which time the paper is subject to rejection by the editor. Once a paper is accepted, headquarters staff oversee its production (copyediting, typesetting, proofs) and publication.

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 rejected by 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" online for information on the decision appeals process.

## AGRONOMY JOURNAL

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

AJ publishes original research in agriculture, natural resource sciences, soil science, crop science, agroclimatology, agronomic modeling, production agriculture, and instrumentation.

Manuscripts are submitted to AJ via its online submission system. For further details, see its online 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 the manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or rejection of the paper to the technical editor, who makes the final decision and notifies the author.

## CROP SCIENCE

*Crop Science* (CS) is published by CSSA and is the official publication of CSSA. Papers submitted to CS undergo a single-anonymous review process.

CS publishes research in crop breeding and genetics, crop physiology, and crop production and is a critical outlet for articles describing plant germplasm collections and their use.

Contributions to CS are submitted via its online submission system. See its online instructions to authors 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 the manuscript to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recom-

mends acceptance or rejection of the paper to the technical editor, who makes the final decision and notifies the author.

### **SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA JOURNAL**

*Soil Science Society of America Journal* (SSSAJ) is published by SSSA and is the official publication of SSSA. Papers submitted to SSSAJ undergo a double-anonymous review process.

SSSAJ publishes basic and applied soil research in soil chemistry, soil physics, soil pedology, and hydrology in agricultural, forest, wetlands, and urban settings. SSSAJ supports a comprehensive venue for interdisciplinary soil scientists, biogeochemists, and agronomists.

Manuscripts are submitted to SSSAJ via its online submission system. For further details, see its online instructions to authors. The editor assigns each manuscript to the technical editor supervising the topic area 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 reject manuscripts.

### **AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL LETTERS**

*Agricultural & Environmental Letters* (A&EL) is an open-access journal published by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Papers submitted to A&EL undergo a single-anonymous review process.

A&EL publishes communications-length, broad-reaching, transformative, and timely articles on major scientific, policy, and economic issues that span the entire range of the agricultural and environmental sciences.

Manuscripts are submitted to A&EL via its online submission system. For further details, see the online instructions to authors. All papers, whether invited or volunteered, are subject to review. The editor assigns the manuscript to a technical editor on the basis of subject matter. The technical editor, in turn, assigns the manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or rejection of the paper to the technical editor, who makes the final decision and notifies the author.

### **AGROSYSTEMS, GEOSCIENCES & ENVIRONMENT**

*Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment* (AGE) is an open-access journal published by ASA and CSSA. Papers submitted to AGE undergo a single-anonymous review process.

AGE publishes studies limited in geography or time, confirmatory articles, and reports of negative results, focusing on all aspects of agriculture, plant, environmental, and soil sciences.

Contributions to AGE are submitted via its online submission system. For further details, see its online instructions to authors. The editor assigns each manuscript to a senior editor on the basis of the subject matter. The senior editor, in turn, assigns the manuscript to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or rejection of the paper to the senior editor, who in turn makes the final decision and notifies the author.

## **CROP, FORAGE, & TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT**

*Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management* (CFTM) is published by ASA and CSSA. Papers submitted to CFTM undergo a single-anonymous review process.

CFTM 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.

Contributions to CFTM are submitted to the journal via its online submission system. See the online instructions to authors 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 the manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or rejection of the paper to the technical editor, who in turn makes the final decision and notifies the author.

## **JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

*Journal of Environmental Quality* (JEQ) is published by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Papers submitted to JEQ undergo a single-anonymous review process.

Contributions to JEQ address anthropogenic impacts on water, soil, and the atmosphere and pertain to some aspect of environmental quality in natural and agricultural ecosystems.

Contributions to JEQ are submitted via its online submission system. See the online instructions to authors 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 the manuscript to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or rejection 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.

## **JOURNAL OF PLANT REGISTRATIONS**

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

JPR publishes cultivar, germplasm, parental line, genetic stock, and mapping population registrations, as well as articles characterizing accessions held within plant germplasm collection systems and descriptions of plant genetic materials.

Contribution to JPR are submitted via its online submission system. See the online instructions to authors 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 rejection of the paper. The journal editor makes the final decision and notifies the author.

## **NATURAL SCIENCES EDUCATION**

*Natural Sciences Education* (NSE) is published by ASA. Papers submitted to NSE undergo a single-anonymous review process.

NSE covers many academic disciplines, publishing articles for educators in the areas of natural resources, plant science, entomology, animal science, ecology, and the environment. Several cooperating institutions are involved in its publication.

Manuscripts are submitted to NSE via its online submission system. For further details, see the online instructions to authors. The editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. Associate editors make their recommendations for acceptance or rejection to the journal's editor. The journal editor makes the final decision and notifies the author of the decision.

### **THE PLANT GENOME**

*The Plant Genome* (TPG) is an open-access journal published by CSSA. Papers submitted to TPG undergo a single-anonymous review process.

TPG publishes advances and breakthroughs in plant genomics research, with special attention to innovative genomic applications that advance our understanding of plant biology that may have applications to crop improvement.

Manuscripts to TPG are submitted via its online submission system. See the online instructions to authors for further details. The editor assigns the manuscript to a technical editor on the basis of the subject matter or crop. The technical editor, in turn, assigns the manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews and recommends to the technical editor acceptance or rejection of the paper. The technical editor makes the final decision and notifies the author.

### **THE PLANT PHENOME JOURNAL**

*The Plant Phenome Journal* (TPPJ) is an open-access journal published by ASA and CSSA. Papers submitted to TPPJ undergo a single-anonymous review process.

TPPJ is a transdisciplinary journal focusing on original research, interpretations, and data sets investigating all aspects of plant phenomics.

Contributions to TPPJ are submitted via its online submission system. See the online instructions to authors for further details. All papers, whether invited or volunteered, are subject to review. Papers are assigned by the editor to a technical editor on the basis of scope. The technical editor, in turn, assigns the manuscripts to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or rejection of the paper to the technical editor, who makes the final decision and notifies the author.

### **URBAN AGRICULTURE & REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS**

*Urban Agriculture & Regional Food Systems* (UA) is an open-access journal published by ASA and CSSA. Papers submitted to UA undergo a double-anonymous review process.

UA is multidisciplinary journal focusing on urban and peri-urban agriculture and systems of urban and regional food provisioning in developing, transition, and advanced economies.

Manuscripts are submitted via its online submission system. See the online instructions to authors 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, who makes the final decision.

## 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-anonymous review process.

VZJ publishes interdisciplinary research and assessments of the vadose zone, the portion of the critical zone that comprises the earth's critical living surface down to groundwater.

Manuscripts are submitted to VZJ via its online submission system. For further details, see the online instructions to authors. The editor assigns the paper to a co-editor, who in turn assigns the paper to an associate editor, who obtains a minimum of two reviews. The associate editor recommends acceptance or rejection of the paper to the co-editor, who makes the final decision to accept or reject the paper.