

Guide for Authors

This manuscript preparation guide is published to aid authors in writing and editors in expediting review and publication.

Scope. The JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY places special emphasis on the chemical aspects of agriculture and food processing. Pesticides, plant nutrients and regulators, chemistry of food processing, biochemistry of nutrition, chemistry of flavors, and compounds isolated from food materials are of chief interest.

The Journal serves chemists, chemical engineers, argonomists, entomologists, nutritionists, and others interested in the broad fields of agricultural and food chemistry. Contributions may report on work at any stage from basic research to testing of products or processes in actual use.

Most contributed articles report results of original research. Review articles are considered only if they summarize information in a field in which the literature is scattered, or if they treat published data or other information so as to provide a new approach or stimulate further worthwhile research.

Material already published in easily available outlets, including technical bulletins and house organs, is not reprinted. An author may use his own patent disclosures as the basis for an article for the Journal, but patents of others must be regarded as prior publications.

Text. For general style, consult a recent issue of the Journal and the "Handbook for Authors of Papers of the Journals of the American Chemical Society." For manuscripts in which gas chromatographic methods are used, follow American Society for Testing Materials' "Recommended Practice for Gas Chromatography of Terms and Relationships" as a general guide. See "Reporting of Gas Chromatographic Methods" by Morton Beroza and Irwin Hornstein for style and format [J. AGR. FOOD CHEM. 17, 408 (1969)].

Introduction. Discuss relationships of your work to previously published work, but do not repeat. If a recent article has summarized work on the subject, cite the article without repeating individual citations.

Apparatus. List only devices of specialized nature.

Reagents. List and describe preparation of special reagents only. Reagents normally found in the laboratory and preparations described in standard handbooks or texts need not be listed.

Procedure. Omit details of procedures which are common knowledge to those in the field. Brief highlights of published procedures may be included, but details must be left to literature cited. Describe pertinent and critical factors involved in reactions so method can be reproduced, but avoid excessive description.

Results and Discussion. Be complete but concise. Avoid comparisons or contrasts which are not pertinent. Do not use a summary or conclusion to repeat information previously mentioned in the text.

Graphs and Tables. Do not use graphs to duplicate information already in tables or text, or vice versa. Omit straight-line calibration curves, giving information in tabular form or in a sentence or two in the text. Furnish tables with appropriate titles and number them consecutively. Type tables (double-spaced lines, wide margins) on separate pages.

Organization. Keep information pertinent to a section within that section. Center heads and side heads provide sufficient sectionalizing for most reports. Do not use footnotes; include the information in the text.

Abstract. Authors' briefs are now used directly for *Chemical Abstracts*. Make yours a clear, concise (100 to 150 words) one-paragraph summary—informative rather than descriptive—giving scope and purpose, methods or procedures, significant new results, and conclusions. Write for literature searchers as well as journal readers.

Title. Use specific and informative titles. Avoid using subtitles and series numbers. If trade names are mentioned, give generic names in parentheses.

Authorship. Be consistent in authorship designation. First name, middle initial, and last name are generally adequate for correct identification. Omit titles. Give complete mailing address of place where work was conducted. If current address of an author is different, include it in a footnote on title page of article.

Nomenclature. Follow nomenclature style of *Chemical Abstracts*: avoid trivial names. If trade names are used, define at point of first use.

Use consistent units of measurement (preferably metric). If nomenclature is specialized, include a "Nomenclature" section at end of paper, giving definitions and dimensions for all terms. Write out names of Greek letters and special symbols in margin of manuscript at point of first use.

Write all equations and formulas clearly and number equations consecutively. Place superscripts and subscripts accurately; avoid superscripts that may be confused with exponents. Identify typed letters and numbers which might be misinterpreted—i.e., "oh" for zero, "el" for one, etc.

In any fertilizer paper, grades or ratios should be handled as follows:

When fertilizer grades or ratios are first mentioned in the text, give figures on elemental (N-P-K) basis, followed immediately by corresponding figures on oxide (N-P₂O₅-K₂O) basis, in parentheses. Thereafter, give each grade or ratio only on elemental basis. In tables, grades and ratios should be given on elemental basis only.

Safety. Authors are requested to call special attention—in both their manuscripts and their correspondence with the editors—to safety considerations such as explosive tendencies, special precautionary handling procedures, and toxicity.

Acknowledgment. Include essential credits in an "Acknowledgment" section at end of text, but hold to an absolute minimum. Omit academic and social titles. Give meeting presentation data or information regarding financial support of the work in a note following Literature Cited.

Literature Cited. References should be listed on a separate sheet in alphabetical order according to author, patentee, or equivalent. (Do not use "Anonymous.") Give complete information as in the examples below. Use *Chemical Abstracts* abbreviations for journal titles. References should be cited in the text by the last name of the author (both authors when only two; first author *et al.* when more than two) and year. Do not number references.

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Communications. Short articles on research methods or results which do not warrant full length papers, but are of value if published promptly, will be considered as "Communications."

Notices. Information about meetings and publications of interest to readers will be welcomed and listed on a page of Notices.

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