



# Journal Histories, Management, and Editorial Procedures

The procedures for handling manuscripts and the duties of individual editorial board members vary from journal to journal. This chapter outlines those procedures for each journal. It also gives the histories and makeup of the journals' editorial boards.

Each of the societies, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, publishes a flagship journal. The three societies also publish additional journals both individually and as copublications of two or more of the societies.

## General Procedures

Contributions to all ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals must be prepared according to instructions given in the *Publications Handbook and Style Manual* (<https://www.agronomy.org/publications/journals/author-resources/style-manual>). Each journal's online instructions to authors contains the most recent requirements for manuscript preparation and submission.

Journal manuscripts are submitted via an online manuscript submission system. Upon submission, each paper is assigned a manuscript number, and a record is created in the electronic system that holds all the submission and review information. The author is automatically sent an acknowledgment email upon submission.

The majority of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals use the single-blind peer-review process, whereby the names of the reviewers are hidden from the author. A few journals, as noted below, use a double-blind review process, whereby the names of the reviewers are hidden from the authors and the names of the authors are hidden from the reviewers.

The online manuscript submission system allows editors, reviewers, and authors to see the current status of articles. The entire review process, documentation and reporting, and correspondence up to the final decision are handled within the manuscript submission system.

Each journal follows a similar workflow. Once a paper is submitted, the editor assigns the paper to a technical editor (or associate editor for those journals without technical editors). If the editor and technical editor determine that the paper should continue in the process, the technical editor assigns an associate editor. The associate editor assigns reviewers via the online submission system.

The editor or technical editor may decide to release a paper prior to official review. Reasons for release prior to review are outlined in more detail in Chapter 2.

Most ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals also publish letters to the editor and book reviews. All letters to the editor and book reviews are submitted via the online manuscript submission system. These are reviewed by the editor, although the editor may send letters to the editor out for review depending on the content. If a letter refers to a published paper, a copy of the letter should be sent to the corresponding author of the published paper, inviting a response. If there is a response, it is published along with the letter.

## Appeals

Should an author feel that the process was implemented incorrectly or that a review was biased or poorly done, the author should first inform the editor of that journal and attempt to resolve the concern at that level. If the concern is not resolved, the author may appeal the decision to the editor(s)-in-chief of that journal. The decision of the editor-in-chief will be final. The appeals process is spelled out further in the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Editorial Policies document.

## Agronomy Journal

### History

*Agronomy Journal* (AJ) is the official publication of the American Society of Agronomy. It was launched in 1910, three years after the ASA was founded. The first four volumes were titled *Proceedings of the American Society of Agronomy*. (Volume 1 contains papers from 1907, 1908, and 1909.) From 1913 through 1948, the name was *Journal of the American Society of Agronomy*. In 1949, the name changed to *Agronomy Journal*. Published first in annual bound volumes and later at greater frequency, the journal appeared from 1923 through 1960 as a monthly periodical. Since then it has been published bimonthly in print, and since 1998 in both print and online formats. When *Journal of Production Agriculture* (a joint publication of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA) ceased publication in 1999, the scope of *Agronomy Journal* expanded to allow publishing of papers that previously appeared in *Journal of Production Agriculture*.

### Editorial Board

The AJ editorial board consists of the ASA editor-in-chief, the editor, technical editors who are experts in various areas, a number of associate editors covering numerous subject-matter areas, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The AJ editor is appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief on behalf of the ASA president.

After consultation with the ASA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA president, the editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**TECHNICAL EDITORS.** Technical editors are appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief on behalf of the ASA president and after consultation with the editor. New technical editor positions may be created only with the approval of the ASA Board of Directors.

Technical editors delegate to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Technical editors of AJ are empowered to accept and release papers.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of a technical editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Associate editors are responsible for finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to their technical editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

### Workflow

A contribution to AJ must be prepared in a way that will allow it to receive a double-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted, the editor assigns the paper to a technical editor. Prior to the official review, the editor and technical editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the technical editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If, at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the technical editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor seeks the services of qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor normally serves as one of the reviewers of the paper (unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise). The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring that the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of AJ manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given approximately 28 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes a recommendation to the technical editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that

manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the technical editor so the author can be fully informed.

The technical editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The technical editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes. When the technical editor selects this recommendation, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The technical editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details). If the revised paper is accepted, the production continues as outlined in the previous point.
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the technical editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of AJ communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers approved for publication, typesetting, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

Any paper published in AJ must make a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge or toward a better understanding of existing agronomic concepts. Articles published in AJ are peer reviewed and report original research findings and technological information on all aspects of agriculture and natural resource sciences. Manuscripts are encouraged that transfer production-oriented information to a wide range of professional agriculturalists, including other disciplines such as animal science, weed science, agricultural economics, entomology, plant pathology, horticulture, and forestry.

Paper types include original research articles, “Review and Interpretation” papers, “Notes and Unique Phenomena,” “Forum” and “Contemporary Issues” papers, software papers, and letters to the editor. “Notes and Unique Phenomena” may be published regarding apparatus, observations, and experimental techniques. Observations usually are limited to studies and reports of unrepeatable phenomena or other unique circumstances.

Research articles are grouped by subject matter. Manuscript authors are given the opportunity to designate the subject-matter heading under which the article could logically appear. These subject-matter areas are: Agronomic Application of Genetic Resources; Agronomy, Soils & Environmental Quality;

Biofuels; Biometry, Modeling & Statistics; Climatology & Water Management; Crop Ecology & Physiology; Crop Economics, Production & Management; Organic Agriculture & Agroecology; Pest Interactions in Agronomic Systems; Soil Fertility & Crop Nutrition; Soil Tillage, Conservation & Management; and Urban Agriculture.

“Forum” and “Contemporary Issues” papers are reviewed by the editor in consultation with one or more technical editors regarding the paper’s acceptability for publication. Contributions to the “Forum” and “Contemporary Issues” sections address current agricultural and natural resource issues and questions in brief, thought-provoking form.

The journal regularly publishes special sections. Guest editors may propose topics and work with the editor in developing the special section. Special sections in AJ are designed (i) to bring to the forefront and promote new areas of research of broad interest to the journal’s readership; (ii) to highlight and provide a platform for scientific exchange resulting from symposia, collaborative projects, and topical conferences through a rigorous and professional peer-review process; and/or (iii) to provide a periodic overview of the state of the art in various research areas by soliciting contributions from active leaders in the various fields of agronomy.

Special sections are usually coordinated by guest editors. Special section articles follow the same workflow as other AJ articles, with guest editors often taking the role of associate editor and with the journal editor having the decision regarding acceptance or release.

## **Crop Science History**

*Crop Science* (CS), published bimonthly, is the official publication of the Crop Science Society of America. Publication began in January 1961, six years after CSSA was organized, and has been published bimonthly ever since. Beginning in 1998 it has also been published electronically.

### **Editorial Board**

The CS editorial board consists of the CSSA editor-in-chief, the editor, technical editors who are experts in various areas, a number of associate editors covering numerous subject-matter areas, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The CS editor is appointed by the CSSA editor-in-chief on behalf of the CSSA president.

After consultation with the CSSA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the CSSA president, the editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**TECHNICAL EDITORS.** Technical editors are appointed by the CSSA editor-in-chief on behalf of the CSSA president and after consultation with the editor. New technical editor positions may be created only with the approval of the CSSA Board of Directors.

Technical editors delegate to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Technical editors of CS are empowered to accept and release papers.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of a technical editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Associate editors are responsible for finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to their technical editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

### Workflow

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted, the editor assigns the paper to a technical editor. Prior to the official review, the editor and technical editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the technical editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the technical editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor seeks the services of qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of CS manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given approximately 28 days to complete revisions, after which time their papers are subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes a recommendation to the technical editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the technical editor so the author can be fully informed.

The technical editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The technical editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes. When the technical editor selects this recommendation, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The technical editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details). If the revised paper is accepted, the production continues as outlined in the previous point.
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the technical editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of CS communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers approved for publication, typesetting, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

### Paper Types

*Crop Science* is the normal channel for publication of papers in plant genetics; breeding; cytology; metabolism; physiology; ecology; turfgrass; weed science; crop quality, production, and utilization; genomics, molecular genetics and biotechnology; and plant genetic resources.

Articles reporting experimentation or research in field crops or reviews or interpretation of such research will be accepted for review as papers. For research involving controlled environments, see <https://www.crops.org/files/publications/ces-guide.pdf> for guidelines. Letters to the editor are welcomed.

## Soil Science Society of America Journal

### History

*Soil Science Society of America Journal* (SSSAJ) is the official publication of the Soil Science Society of America. It was first published as *Soil Science Society of America Proceedings* in 1937, one year after the SSSA was organized. In 1976, the name was changed to *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. It was first published as an annual bound volume. In 1952, it became a quarterly publication, and it has appeared bimonthly since January 1958. Beginning in 1998, it has also been published electronically.

### Editorial Board

The SSSAJ editorial board consists of the SSSA editor-in-chief, editor, technical editors, associate editors, managing editor, and publications director and

chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The SSSAJ editor is appointed by the SSSA editor-in-chief on behalf of the SSSA president.

After consultation with the SSSA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the SSSA president, the editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**TECHNICAL EDITORS.** Technical editors are appointed by the SSSA editor-in-chief on behalf of the SSSA president and after consultation with the editor. New technical editor positions may be created only with the approval of the SSSA Board of Directors.

Technical editors delegate to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Technical editors of SSSAJ are empowered to accept and release papers.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of a technical editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Technical editors normally delegate to associate editors the responsibility of finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors have the ability to accept manuscripts but not to release them. When an associate editor recommends that a manuscript be released, they consult with the technical editor, who will inform the author of the paper's release.

## Workflow

A contribution to SSSAJ must be prepared in a way that will allow it to receive a double-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted to SSSAJ, the editor assigns the paper to a technical editor. Prior to the official review, the editor and technical editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining the paper is ready for review, the technical editor assigns it to an associate editor. If at this time there is still a question about whether a paper is ready for review, the associate editor is urged to discuss any concerns with the technical editor before assigning outside reviewers. The associate editor assigns reviewers via the online submission system. Reviewers of SSSAJ manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors of SSSAJ have the authority to accept papers for publication but not to release them. Technical editors can both accept and release a paper submitted to SSSAJ.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made. A corresponding author is given



approximately 30 days to complete revisions, after which time their papers are subject to release. The associate editor may:

- Recommend acceptance of the paper with no additional changes.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The associate editor then works with the author to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details). If the revised paper is accepted, production then continues.
- Recommend to the technical editor that the paper be released. The technical editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. If the technical editor agrees with the recommendation, they inform the corresponding author of that action and detail the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the technical editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

If the technical editor is not comfortable with the decision, the editor may make the final decision regarding the manuscript and can accept, modify, or disagree with the technical editor's recommendation. If the editor suggests further modifications, the technical editor will work with the author, usually through the associate editor, to clear up any points.

The corresponding author of an accepted paper will be notified via email by either the editor, technical editor, or associate editor. For those papers that are released, a notification email can be received from the editor or technical editor. When the editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of SSSAJ communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers approved for publication, typesetting, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

The SSSAJ is the normal channel for publication of papers and notes reporting on original research in the subject-matter divisions or groups of the SSSA. Reviews, issue papers, comments and letters to the editor, book reviews, symposia papers, and papers on the history of soil science may also be published. Special sections or issues may be published on occasion. The editor-in-chief, editor, and technical editors can ask for input on the submitted proposals for special sections or issues. Papers submitted under these special issues or sections follow the same workflow as outlined above.

# Agricultural & Environmental Letters

## History

*Agricultural & Environmental Letters* (A&EL), copublished by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, is a continuously published electronic-only open-access journal. The journal was launched in 2016.

## Editorial Board

The A&EL editorial board consists of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA editors-in-chief, the editor, technical editors who are experts in various areas, a number of associate editors covering numerous subject-matter areas, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The A&EL editor is appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief in consultation and agreement with the CSSA and SSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA presidents.

After consultation with the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA presidents, the editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**TECHNICAL EDITORS.** Technical editors are appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief after consultation with the editor and in consultation and agreement with the CSSA and SSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA presidents. New technical editor positions may be created only with the approval of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors.

Technical editors delegate to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Technical editors of A&EL are empowered to accept and release papers.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of a technical editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Technical editors normally delegate to associate editors the responsibility of finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to their technical editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

## Workflow

A contribution to A&EL receives a single-blind review. *Agricultural & Environmental Letters* uses an expedited review and publication process.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted to A&EL, the editor assigns the paper to a technical editor. Prior to the official review, the editor and technical editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the technical editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the technical editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor invites qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor normally serves as one of the reviewers of the paper unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise. The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset; often, the associate editor acts as one of the reviewers and asks the technical editor to act as another reviewer. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of A&EL manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 10 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given 10 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes the recommendation to the technical editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the technical editor so the author can be fully informed.

The technical editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The technical editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The technical editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details).
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the technical editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The technical editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision via the manuscript peer-review system. When the technical editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper, and production for publication begins.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of A&EL communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers, layout, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

### Paper Types

Manuscripts in A&EL are published under the following categories: (i) editorials, including invited guest editorials; (ii) commentaries—commentary on relevant issues related to science, policy, research trends, business trends, exciting new discoveries, food security, etc.; (iii) letters to the editor; and (iv) research letters—manuscripts that provide research information and other related information. Research letters include an abstract and may be divided into sections to bring organization to the manuscript.

## Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment History

*Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment* (AGE), copublished by ASA and CSSA, is an open-access, continuously published, electronic journal. The journal was launched in 2018.

### Editorial Board

The AGE editorial board consists of the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief, the editor, senior editors who are experts in various areas, a number of associate editors covering numerous subject-matter areas, and the managing editor, publications director, and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The AGE editor is appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief, on behalf of the ASA president and in agreement with the CSSA editor-in-chief and president. After consultation with the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA and CSSA presidents, the editor appoints new and replacement associate editors. The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**SENIOR EDITORS.** Senior editors are appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief after consultation with the editor and in consultation and agreement with the CSSA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA and CSSA presidents. New senior editor positions may be created only with the approval of the ASA and CSSA Boards of Directors.

Senior editors delegate to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Senior editors of AGE are empowered to accept and release papers.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of a senior editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Associate editors are responsible for finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to their senior editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

## Workflow

A contribution to AGE receives a single-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. *Agrosystems*, *Geosciences & Environment* will follow two publication tracks: transferred manuscripts from other ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals or new submissions.

**TRACK 1: TRANSFERRED MANUSCRIPTS.** *Agrosystems*, *Geosciences & Environment* will act as a cascade journal, taking manuscripts from other ASA, CSSA, and SSSA journals that are being released because they are not in the scope of the journal, not sufficiently novel, too regional, or present null results. These manuscripts can be released after review (from the original journal), in which case the reviews will follow the manuscript to AGE; or they can be released (from the original journal) before review, in which case it will be reviewed with AGE.

The transfer of manuscripts will occur directly between journals within ASA, CSSA, and SSSA, so authors will not have to resubmit them. If an author declines the chance to transfer a manuscript to AGE, the manuscript will be released entirely. Reviewers will be notified that their reviews may be moved to another ASA, CSSA, or SSSA journal (but never outside of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA).

Once a paper is transferred to AGE, the editor and/or senior editor may decide that a paper is not suitable for AGE and release it back to the author. After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the editor assigns it to a senior editor. The senior editor evaluates the reviewers' comments that were transferred with the manuscript. After this initial assessment, the senior editor may elect to work directly with the authors to revise the manuscript, assign the manuscript to an associate editor to interact with the author(s) to revise the manuscript, or assign the manuscript to an associate editor to obtain additional reviews.

If the senior editor believes the manuscript requires minimal revision, the senior editor may communicate directly with the author to revise the manuscript. If more substantial work is necessary, the senior editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If the associate editor believes additional reviews are needed, then additional reviews can be solicited. The associate editor examines the transferred reviews and corresponds with the author to revise the manuscript. If the associate editor believes additional reviews are needed, then additional reviews can be solicited. The associate editor also serves as a reviewer of the paper (unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise). The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release

of the manuscript. Reviewers of AGE manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 14 days. Associate editors are encouraged to assess the revised manuscripts for completeness in addressing the review comments without returning manuscripts to the reviewers for additional reviews.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given 28 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

**TRACK 2: NEW SUBMISSIONS.** New submissions received by AGE will be screened by the editor to ensure they fit within the scope and aim of the journal. The submission will be sent to a senior editor, who assigns it to an associate editor. The associate editor selects reviewers and can either work with the author to revise the manuscript or can return it to the senior editor if a release from the journal is recommended, after receiving a minimum of two reviews. Associate editors will serve as reviewers for manuscripts unless they feel the subject matter is too far outside of their area of expertise. If a revision is recommended, the associate editor will correspond directly with the authors on the revision and are encouraged to assess the revised manuscripts for completeness in addressing the review comments, without returning manuscripts to the reviewers for additional reviews.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given approximately 28 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

**WORKFLOW FOR ALL AGE MANUSCRIPTS.** Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes a recommendation to the senior editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the senior editor so the author can be fully informed.

The senior editor reads the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The senior editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The senior editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details).
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the senior editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit

the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The senior editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision via the manuscript peer-review system. When the senior editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper, and production for publication begins.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed. After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of AGE communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers approved for publication, layout, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

### Paper Types

Articles published in AGE report original research findings and technological information on all aspects of agriculture, plant, environmental, and soil sciences. Paper types include original research articles in the areas of agrosystems, geosciences, environment, or statistics.

## Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management

### History

*Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management* (CFTM), launched in 2015, is an electronic copublished by ASA and CSSA. Prior to 2015, CFTM existed as the separate journals *Applied Turfgrass Science*, *Crop Management*, and *Forage & Grazinglands*.

### Editorial Board

*Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management* is prepared by an editorial board consisting of the editor, technical editors, associate editors, the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The CFTM editor is appointed by the CSSA editor-in-chief in consultation and agreement with the ASA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA and CSSA presidents.

The editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**TECHNICAL EDITORS.** Technical editors are appointed by the CSSA editor-in-chief in consultation and agreement with the ASA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA and CSSA presidents after consultation with the editor. New technical editor positions may be created only with the approval of the ASA and CSSA Boards of Directors.

Technical editors delegate to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Technical editors of CFTM are empowered to accept and release papers.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of a technical editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Technical editors normally delegate to associate editors the responsibility of finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to their technical editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

### Workflow

A contribution to CFTM receives a single-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted to CFTM, the editor assigns the paper to a technical editor. Prior to the official review, the editor and technical editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the technical editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If, at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the technical editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor invites qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor normally serves as one of the reviewers of the paper unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise. The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring that the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of CFTM manuscripts are requested to complete their reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given approximately 30 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes a recommendation to the technical editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the technical editor so the author can be fully informed.

The technical editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The technical editor may:



- Accept the paper with no additional changes.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The co-editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details).
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the technical editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The technical editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision via the manuscript peer-review system. When the technical editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper, and production for publication begins.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of CFTM communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers, layout, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

*Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management* is a peer-reviewed, international, journal covering 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.

Research articles and briefs are published in the topical categories Applied Turfgrass Science, Crop Management, and Forage & Grazinglands.

Research articles should describe work that represents a significant advance in the understanding of a particular issue and that leads to practical solutions to existing problems. The work described must be new and original. Research articles are encouraged to be short and concise and no longer than 3,000 words. All manuscripts must be presented in terms meaningful to both a multidisciplinary audience of scientists and educated, nonspecialist, lay readers.

Briefs are short peer-reviewed scientific reports 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 journal except that they are shorter by nature. Briefs provide a repository of science-based findings that are important to advisers, growers, diagnosticians, researchers, regulatory officials, other practitioners, and the public. Briefs are intended to stand alone and do not include preliminary reports of work that will later be presented in full-length papers, nor are they abstracts. Briefs are limited to 800 words.

Additionally, the following paper types may be published: letters from the editor, letters to the editor, Reviews, Perspectives, Research and Industry Trends, Diagnostic Guides, Management Guides, and Proceedings.

## Journal of Environmental Quality

### History

The *Journal of Environmental Quality* (JEQ) is published jointly by ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. The first issue was published in January 1972 and was published quarterly until 1994, when it became bimonthly.

### Editorial Board

The JEQ editorial board consists of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA editors-in-chief, the editor, technical editors who are experts in various areas, a number of associate editors covering numerous subject-matter areas, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The JEQ editor is appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief in consultation and agreement with the CSSA and SSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA presidents.

The editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**TECHNICAL EDITORS.** Technical editors are appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief after consultation with the editor and in consultation and agreement with the CSSA and SSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA presidents. New technical editor positions may be created only with the approval of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors.

Technical editors delegate to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Technical editors of JEQ recommend to the editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of a technical editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Technical editors normally delegate to associate editors the responsibility of finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to their technical editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

### Workflow

A contribution to JEQ receives a single-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted to JEQ, the editor assigns it to a technical editor. Prior to the official review, the editor and technical editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the technical editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If, at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the technical editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor seeks the services of qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor normally serves as one of the reviewers of the paper (unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise). The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of JEQ manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given approximately 30 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes a recommendation to the technical editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that a manuscript be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the technical editor so that the author can be fully informed.

The technical editor notifies the editor of the recommendation.

The technical editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The technical editor may:

- Recommend acceptance of the paper with no additional changes.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The technical editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details).
- Recommend that the paper be released, informing the editor of that recommendation and detailing the reason(s) for the release.

The editor makes the final decision regarding the manuscript and can accept, modify, or disagree with the technical editor's recommendation. If the editor suggests further modifications, the technical editor will work with the author, usually through the associate editor, to clear up any points. If the recommendation is for release and depending on the circumstances, the editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

The editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision. When the editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of JEQ communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers approved for publication, typesetting, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

Papers in JEQ cover various aspects of different types of nonnatural impacts on the environment, with particular focus on terrestrial and aquatic systems. Emphasis is given to the understanding of underlying processes rather than to monitoring. Papers should be broad in scope.

Contributions reporting original research or 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. Papers may be volunteered, invited, or coordinated as a special section.

Paper types include Technical Reports, Reviews and Analyses, Environmental Issues, Short Communications, Datasets, and Special Sections. Letters to the editor and book reviews are also accepted. Reviews and Analyses papers and book reviews may be invited by the editor.

Technical reports are grouped by subject matter. Authors are given the opportunity to designate the subject-matter heading under which the article could logically appear. These subject areas are periodically reviewed by the JEQ editorial board and are subject to change. The current subject-matter areas include atmospheric pollutants and trace gases, biodegradation and bioremediation, ecological risk assessment, ecosystem restoration, environmental microbiology, environmental models, modules, and datasets, groundwater quality, landscape and watershed processes, plant and environment interactions, organic compounds in the environment, surface water quality, trace elements in the environment, urban pollutants, vadose zone transport processes and chemical transport, waste management, and wetlands and aquatic processes.

The journal regularly publishes special sections. Guest editors may propose topics and work with the editor in developing the special section. Special sections in JEQ are designed (i) to bring to the forefront and promote new areas of research of broad interest to the journal's readership; (ii) to highlight and provide a platform for scientific exchange resulting from symposia, collaborative projects, and topical conferences through a rigorous and professional peer-review process; and/or (iii) to provide a periodic overview of the state of the art in various research areas by soliciting contributions from active leaders in the field of environmental quality. Special sections usually have guest editors. Special section articles follow the same workflow as other JEQ articles, with guest editors often

taking the role of associate editor and with the journal editor having the final decision regarding acceptance or release.

## Journal of Plant Registrations

### History

*Journal of Plant Registrations* (JPR) is the official registration publication of CSSA. It was first published in May 2007. Previously, plant registrations were published as short notes in *Crop Science*.

The journal works in cooperation with the USDA–ARS’s National Germplasm Resources Laboratory of the National Plant Germplasm System and the National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation to ensure assignment of a registration number to registered material, issue certificates of registration, confirm a permanent record file in the Germplasm Resources Information Network database, and ensure that the list of all registered materials is available to users worldwide.

### Editorial Board

*Journal of Plant Registrations* is prepared by an editorial board consisting of the editor, associate editors, the CSSA editor-in-chief, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The JPR editor is appointed by the CSSA editor-in-chief on behalf of the CSSA president.

The editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

The editor delegates to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of the editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Associate editors recommend to the editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

### Workflow

A contribution to JPR receives a single-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted to JPR, the editor assigns the paper to an associate editor. Prior to the official review, the editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If, at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor invites qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor normally serves as one of the reviewers of the paper unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise. The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring that the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of JPR manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given 30 to 60 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes a recommendation to the editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the editor so that the author can be fully informed.

The editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details).
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision. When the editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of JPR communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers, layout, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

The journal publishes rigorously peer-reviewed research describing the development of new plant genotypes with enhanced nutrition, productivity, quality, and/or genetic diversity. The journal is the premier international venue for plant breeders, geneticists, and genome biologists to publish research describing new and novel plant cultivars, germplasms, parental lines, genetic stocks, and genomic mapping populations. In addition to biomedical, nutritional, and agricultural scientists, the intended audience includes policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and all facets of the food, feed, fiber, bioenergy, and shelter industries.

The journal publishes cultivar, germplasm, parental line, genetic stock, and mapping population registration manuscripts, keeping breeders informed about new advances in the genetic diversity of crops. The journal also accepts reviews and analyses papers.

Registration of genetic materials protected by patents, plant variety protection, or other instruments is encouraged by CSSA and JPR. The requirements are as follows: “To be registered, plant material must be available for use as a source material for research and breeding. Both nonexclusive and exclusive releases must be made available to the public without restriction upon expiry of protections (such as Patents, Plant Variety Protection, or Material Transfer Agreements), which may not exceed 20 years.” It is the authors’ responsibility to state the form of restriction and the way to access the material during the period of restricted use.

## Natural Sciences Education

### History

*Natural Sciences Education* (NSE) is an outgrowth of the agronomic education section formerly published in *Agronomy Journal*. It was established as a separate journal by ASA in 1971 under the title *Journal of Agronomic Education*. In 1992, it was given the name *Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Education* when its scope was expanded and a number of organizations were brought in as cooperators. The title was changed to *Natural Sciences Education* in 2013 to widen the scope further and add more cooperators.

The journal was published twice yearly from 1971 through 1997. Beginning in 1998, articles were electronically published. The journal became electronic only starting in 2013. At the end of each year, the papers for that year are collected and published in an annual volume.

### Editorial Board

The editorial board of NSE consists of the ASA editor-in-chief, an editor, a number of associate editors, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The NSE editor is appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief on behalf of the ASA president.

After consultation with the ASA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA president, the editor appoints new and replacement associate editors. The editor delegates to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of the editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Associate editors are responsible for finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to the editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released. Cooperating societies have an opportunity to suggest associate editors to be appointed to the editorial board. The associate editors representing cooperators have the additional responsibility of encouraging members of their society to submit manuscripts to the journal and to subscribe.

### Workflow

A contribution to NSE receives a single-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted to NSE, the editor assigns the paper to an associate editor. Prior to the official review, the editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. The associate editor invites qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor normally serves as one of the reviewers of the paper unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise. The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring that the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of NSE manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given 30 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes the recommendation to the editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the editor so the author can be fully informed.



The editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details).
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision via the manuscript peer-review system. When the editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper, and production for publication begins.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of NSE communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers, layout, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

### Paper Types

The journal accepts reports of original studies pertaining to concepts of resident, extension, and industrial education in various disciplines. This includes analysis and synthesis of existing knowledge or research, instructional techniques and methods, surveys of instruction, and other studies that contribute to the development or better understanding of educational efforts. Reviews of comprehensive and well-defined scope are acceptable. Manuscripts based mainly on personal philosophy or opinion are acceptable if they conform to the above criteria.

Articles are published in the areas of animal science, ecology, natural resources, agronomy, the environment, entomology, and more. Table of contents headings in the journal are: Graduate Education, Undergraduate Education, K–12 Education, Extension Education, Research, Notes, and Web Lessons and Learning Activities. Authors are given the opportunity to designate the subject matter heading under which the article could logically appear. Other types of manuscripts published in NSE include case studies, computer software articles, profiles, news features, slide set articles, and letters to the editor.

## The Plant Genome History

With the growth of the plant sciences, genetics, physiology, and biotechnology have merged and CSSA found it necessary to begin a new journal, *The Plant Genome* (TPG). The first issue was published as a *Crop Science* supplement to the November–December 2006 issue. *The Plant Genome* was published for the first time as a separate journal in July 2008. This online journal publishes three times per year and is fully open access.

### Editorial Board

*The Plant Genome* editorial board consists of the CSSA editor-in-chief, the editor, associate editors, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** *The Plant Genome* editor is appointed by the CSSA editor-in-chief on behalf of the CSSA president.

After consultation with the CSSA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the CSSA president, the editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of the editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Associate editors are responsible for finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to the editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

### Workflow

A contribution to TPG receives a single-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions program. Once a paper is submitted, the editor assigns the paper to an associate editor. Prior to the official review, the editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor seeks the services of qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring the reviews

are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of TPG manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 14 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given approximately 28 days to complete revisions, after which time their papers are subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes the recommendation to the editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the editor so the author can be fully informed.

The editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes. When the technical editor selects this recommendation, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details). If the revised paper is accepted, the production continues as outlined in the previous point.
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision via the manuscript peer-review system. When the editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper, and production for publication begins.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of TPG communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers approved for publication, typesetting, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

Papers published in TPG must be either reports of original research, critical reviews, or interpretive articles. *The Plant Genome* will publish 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. Short articles (usually four printed pages or less) concerned with experimental techniques, database descriptions, method improvements, new analytical equipment, computational tools or other breakthroughs that significantly improve genomic data acquisition and analysis will be accepted for review as Science Notes. Science Notes may also describe novel findings that do not require extensive background or discussion. The editorial board will give preference to novel reports that use innovative genomic applications that advance our understanding of plant biology and may have applications to crop improvement.

## The Plant Phenome Journal

### History

*The Plant Phenome Journal* (TPPJ), copublished by ASA and CSSA, is a continuously published, online only, open access journal. *The Plant Phenome Journal* is a transdisciplinary journal publishing original research, interpretations, and datasets 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. The journal was launched in 2017.

### Editorial Board

The editorial board of TPPJ consists of the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief, editor, technical editors, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The TPPJ editor is appointed by the ASA editor-in-chief in consultation and agreement with the CSSA editor-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA and CSSA presidents.

After consultation with the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA and CSSA presidents, the editor appoints new and replacement technical and associate editors. The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**TECHNICAL EDITORS.** Technical editors are appointed by the journal editor after consultation with the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA president. New technical editor positions may be created only with the approval of the ASA and CSSA Boards of Directors.

Technical editors for TPPJ are responsible for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Technical editors for TPPJ are empowered to accept and release papers.

## Workflow

Papers submitted to TPPJ undergo a single-blind review process.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted, the editor assigns the paper to a technical editor. Prior to the official review, the editor and technical editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

The technical editor seeks the services of qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The technical editor normally serves as one of the reviewers of the paper unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise. The technical editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the technical editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. Authors will be prompted to provide a list of preferred and non-preferred reviewers. These reviewers cannot have a conflict of interest involving the authors or the study, and the editorial board has the right to not use any reviewers suggested by authors. The technical editor is responsible for ensuring the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of TPPJ manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Technical editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision (major or minor) but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made. Corresponding authors are given approximately 30 days to complete revisions, after which time their papers are subject to release by the editor.

After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the technical editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes. When this recommendation is selected, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper.
- Feel that the paper is worthy of publication but not ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The technical editor then works with the author to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details). If the revised paper is accepted, the production continues as outlined in the previous point.
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the technical editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of TPPJ communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers approved for publication, typesetting, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

Contributions to TPPJ may be Original Research, Review and Interpretation, Science Notes, Proceedings Papers, Data Briefs, and Letters to the Editor. Original Research papers report breakthrough research in applications domains and new technological advancements. Interpretations synthesize across crops, disciplines and institutions. Science Notes are short articles (usually 4 printed pages or less) primarily concerned with specific methodological advancements that improve plant phenomics. This is a good fit for describing new sensors, software, techniques, and other technologies that do not yet have substantial biological findings or impact from application.

Proceedings Papers and Data Briefs are limited to 2 printed pages, including figures. Proceedings Papers provide status updates on methodology, techniques, and tips of topical but broad interest, while Data Briefs describe a large phenotypic data set submitted to the journal repository for community analysis. All data sets should adhere to the best metadata and curation practices at the time of submission, which we expect to evolve over time.

Letters to the Editor are welcomed and are published subject to review and approval of the editor. When letters concern previous articles, the authors will be invited to reply; letter and reply are published together.

## Urban Agriculture & Regional Food Systems

### History

*Urban Agriculture & Regional Food Systems* (UA), copublished by ASA and CSSA, is a continuously published electronic-only open-access journal. The journal launched in 2016 after being acquired from the Baltzer Scientific Group.

The UA is intended 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). It aims to explore, analyze, and critically reflect upon urban and regional food production, processing, transport, trade, marketing, and consumption and the social, economic, environmental, health and spatial contexts, relations, and impacts of these food provisioning activities.

### Editorial Board

The UA editorial board consists of the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief, the editor, associate editors, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as ex officio members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The UA editor is appointed by the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief on behalf of the ASA and CSSA presidents.

After consultation with the ASA and CSSA editors-in-chief and on behalf of the ASA and CSSA presidents, the editor appoints new and replacement associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts on special topics.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of the editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Associate editors are responsible for finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to the editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

### Workflow

A contribution to UA must be prepared in a way that will allow it to receive a double-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted, the editor assigns the paper to an associate editor. Prior to the official review, the editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If, at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor seeks the services of qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor is responsible for ensuring that the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of UA manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given approximately 28 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes a recommendation to the editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the editor so that the author can be fully informed.

The editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes. When the editor selects this recommendation, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The associate editor then works with the author to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details). If the revised paper is accepted, the production continues as outlined in the previous point.
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision via the manuscript peer-review system. When the editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper, and production for publication begins.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of UA communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers approved for publication, typesetting, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

The journal addresses one of the contemporary grand societal challenges: how to secure the availability, affordability, and access to culturally appropriate, nutritious, and safe food for a growing and rapidly urbanizing world population in times of increasing resource scarcity, diet-related ill health, and climate change. Because this challenge requires a multidisciplinary approach, UA welcomes contributions from a wide variety of disciplines, such as sociology, economics, marketing and consumer studies, gender studies, human and economic geography, urban and regional planning, architecture, urbanism, landscape architecture, political science, agronomy, soil science, water management, and public health studies. The journal publishes original research as well as critical reviews.

## Vadose Zone Journal

### History

*Vadose Zone Journal* (VZJ) is published online monthly by SSSA. The first issue was published in August 2002. The journal became open access in 2018, beginning with that volume.

*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. *Vadose Zone Journal* is a peer-reviewed,



international journal publishing reviews, original research, and special sections across a wide range of disciplines.

### Editorial Board

The VZJ editorial board consists of the SSSA editor-in-chief, the editor, co-editors who are experts in various areas, a number of associate editors covering numerous subject-matter areas and responsibilities, the managing editor, and the publications director and chief executive officer as *ex officio* members. See Chapter 1 for a general description of the responsibilities of the editorial board.

**EDITOR.** The VZJ editor is appointed by the SSSA editor-in-chief on behalf of the SSSA president.

After consultation with the SSSA editor-in-chief, the editor appoints new and replacement co-editors and associate editors.

The editor may write editorials and solicit manuscripts and special sections on special topics.

**CO-EDITORS.** Co-editors delegate to associate editors the responsibility for obtaining reviews from qualified peer scientists. Co-editors of VZJ have the authority to release or accept manuscripts.

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS.** Under the direction of a co-editor, associate editors are responsible for evaluating in a timely manner the technical and intellectual content and suitability of manuscripts assigned to them. Co-editors normally delegate to associate editors the responsibility of finding reviewers and corresponding and working with authors to obtain revisions as needed. Associate editors recommend to their co-editor whether a manuscript should be accepted or released.

### Workflow

A contribution to VZJ receives a single-blind review.

The editor oversees the peer-review process via the online manuscript submissions system. Once a paper is submitted to VZJ, the editor assigns the paper to a co-editor. Prior to the official review, the editor and co-editor may decide that a paper is not ready for review and release it back to the author.

After determining that a manuscript is ready for review, the co-editor assigns the manuscript to an associate editor. If, at this stage, the associate editor feels that the manuscript is not ready for review, they are urged to discuss their concerns with the co-editor before assigning outside reviewers.

The associate editor invites qualified peer reviewers via the electronic submission system. The associate editor normally serves as one of the reviewers of the paper unless the subject matter is too far outside their area of expertise. The associate editor is responsible for obtaining at least two recommendations for acceptance or release of the manuscript. To speed the review process, it is suggested that the associate editor line up a total of three reviewers at the outset. The associate editor

is responsible for ensuring that the reviews are completed in a timely manner. Reviewers of VZJ manuscripts are requested to complete reviews in 21 days.

Associate editors can decide to return a paper to an author for revision but should never indicate to the corresponding author anything that would guarantee acceptance if certain changes are made.

Corresponding authors are given approximately 30 days to complete revisions, after which time the paper is subject to release.

Associate editors do not have the authority to accept or release a paper during the review process. After reaching a final decision about the acceptability of a paper, the associate editor makes a recommendation to the co-editor regarding acceptance or release of the manuscript. When recommending that manuscripts be released, the associate editor should give sufficient reason to the co-editor so the author can be fully informed.

The co-editor reviews the reviewers' comments and the associate editor's recommendation and may accept, modify, or disagree with that recommendation. The co-editor may:

- Accept the paper with no additional changes.
- Agree that the paper is worthy of publication but disagree that the paper is ready for acceptance and recommend a revision. The co-editor then works with the author—usually through the associate editor—to clear up any points (often involving scientific and technical details).
- Release the paper, informing the corresponding author of that action and detailing the reason(s) for the release. Depending on the circumstances, the co-editor may encourage the author to clear up any technical problems and resubmit the manuscript for further consideration. Resubmissions should be noted as such by the corresponding author at the time of resubmission.

The co-editor notifies the corresponding author of the final decision via the manuscript peer-review system. When the co-editor accepts a manuscript, the headquarters office is notified of the accepted paper, and production for publication begins.

The editor may make an immediate decision at any time during the process if needed.

After a paper is accepted, the managing editor of VZJ communicates with the corresponding author throughout the production process. The managing editor supervises copyediting of papers, layout, transmittal of proofs to authors, and publication.

## Paper Types

*Vadose Zone Journal* reports fundamental and applied research from disciplinary and multidisciplinary investigations of the mostly unsaturated zone between the soil surface and the groundwater table. Topic areas include variably saturated fluid flow, heat and solute transport, flow processes in the capillary fringe at or near the water table, water table management, regional and global climate change impacts on the

vadose zone, carbon sequestration, design and performance of waste disposal facilities, long-term stewardship of contaminated sites, biogeochemical transformation processes, microbial processes in shallow and deep formations, bioremediation, and the fate and transport of radionuclides, inorganic and organic chemicals, colloids, viruses, and microorganisms. *Vadose Zone Journal* also addresses yet-to-be-resolved issues, such as how to quantify heterogeneity of subsurface processes and properties, and how to couple physical, chemical, and biological processes across a range of spatial scales from the molecular to the global.

Contributions to VZJ include reviews, updates, original research papers, technical notes, comments or letters to the editor, book reviews, and priority communications.

Reviews may be invited or submitted. Updates are related to the journal's focus topics and are short reviews of recent progress in a particular area. They are meant to serve as both resources for research and advanced teaching tools. Most update papers are solicited from subject matter experts in association with a specific focus topic. However, the journal also welcomes contributed updates. They should be written in a manner making them easily accessible to a broader audience and of interest to readers seeking an introduction to the particular topic. Updates should not exceed 5000 words, with references, but excluding supplemental material. Updates should include a title that attracts the attention of nonspecialists and an abstract of not more than 150 words. Updates are subject to the regular review process.

Original research findings are interpreted to mean the outcome of scholarly inquiry, investigation, modeling, or experimentation having as an objective the revision of existing concepts, the development of new concepts, or the development of new or improved techniques in some aspect of the vadose zone.

Priority Communications are intended to highlight time-sensitive new research results that have far-reaching impacts across the vadose zone community, i.e., "game changers." These manuscripts undergo the same rigorous peer reviews as other submissions, but the process is accelerated and the papers are shorter and more accessible.

Technical Notes are scientifically sound, stand-alone articles that tend to focus on new experimental (laboratory or field), analytical, or modeling methods, and they tend to be shorter in length (approximately four to six published pages). Technical notes are handled identically to other full research articles, following the same peer-review process.

Special sections on particular topical areas are identified and developed by the editorial board, and contributions are solicited by guest editors and calls for papers on the VZJ website.

Articles designated as Reproducible Research (RR) in VZJ are not a separate paper type but rather a class of articles that include supplemental computer code and/or data that permit readers to analyze the data in a manner similar to that presented in the article and reproduce all results from the article. The purpose of RR in VZJ is to provide a means for verifying the correctness of results presented in published articles and to build on results in future research and applications.