

# Soil Horizons—Instructions to Authors

Contributors to *Soil Horizons* include soil scientists, soil, survey personnel, private consultants, soils educators, researchers, students, and others interested in the importance of soil in our environment. The editorial board welcomes your submissions of papers concerning ideas, research, problems, field experiences, history, and philosophies related to the study of soils for peer review and potential publication in the journal.

We welcome your ideas for Features, profiles (A Day in the Life), and Guest Columns in the non-peer-reviewed section of *Soil Horizons*. If you have an idea, please send an email to Madeline Fisher at [mfisher@sciencesocieties.org](mailto:mfisher@sciencesocieties.org) describing your idea in one or two paragraphs. The email should answer the following: What is the topic, or who is the person to be profiled? Why is it important for readers of *Soil Horizons* to know about this topic or person? Are there potential sources for the article or guest column that you can recommend?

## Submissions

On a cover page, include the full name, title, organization/affiliation, and address of all authors. On that same page, identify the corresponding author and include his/her complete mailing address, phone number, and email address. Beginning with the title page, abstract, and main paper, the authors' names should not appear, so as to allow for blind review by external reviewers. Manuscripts should be electronically submitted <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/soilhorizons> as a MS Word (.doc or .docx) file. Once submitted to Manuscript Central, an associate editor will be assigned to manage the review of the submitted paper. For *Soil Horizons*, the paper is typically reviewed both by the associate editor and one external peer reviewer. Reviewers are requested to provide comments within 21 days from the date the paper is assigned to them.

## Manuscript Preparation

To facilitate review, manuscripts are required to be double-spaced with continuous line numbering added along the left margin. Manuscripts should be prepared in adherence to the SSSA Publications Handbook and Style Manual (<https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/style>), especially for citations, references, table construction/footnoting, and figures.

## Format

Authors should follow the general format of articles that appear in SH. For many articles, this will entail an abstract, keywords, introduction, materials/methods, results/discussion, conclusions, and references. Paragraphs should be indented. Avoid one sentence paragraphs. When applicable, a list of figure captions and tables should be placed at the end of the file after the references. Writing in the third person is preferred over first person. Avoid clichés or informal language. Vary sentence structure and avoid repeating the same word multiple times in the same sentence. Chemical elements do not require definition.

## Tables

Number tables consecutively. Use the following symbols for footnotes in this order: †, ‡, §, ¶, #, ††, etc. To indicate statistical significance, \* and \*\* denote the 5 and 1% levels of significance. Use the table function in Word rather than tabs for presentation of tables. Spreadsheets are not acceptable. Data should be neatly organized within the table with attention given to significant digits and proper units for data. Remember that sufficient information must be given in the table and header that they could stand alone if removed from the document and make perfect sense to the layperson.

## Figures

High quality illustrative figures and photographs are encouraged. Figures should be submitted as separate files, preferably as TIFF files of 300 dpi or more (JPG files may be acceptable if resolution is sufficient)... All figures are produced in color for *Soil Horizons* at no additional cost. Photos credits should be given if the photographs were not taken by the authors of the paper'; authors are responsible for obtaining and forwarded releases from the copyright holder in this case. Remember that sufficient information must be given in the figure and caption that they could stand alone if removed from the document and make perfect sense to the layperson.

## Units of Measure

Use of metric measurements is required (e.g. g cm<sup>-3</sup>; kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), but common English (e.g. inch-pound) measurements may also be included at the authors discretion.

## References

References to published literature should be given alphabetically by senior authors at the end of the manuscript. Supporting citations within the manuscript follow standard conventions given in the *SSSA Publications Handbook and Style Manual*. Be sure to double-check for perfect citation/reference matching; all citations must include a matching reference list item, and all references listed must be cited. New citations should not occur within the conclusions section of the manuscript. Citations with supporting references may also be appropriate for supporting figures and tables. Include the digital object identifiers (DOI) when available. Web-based references, if academically meritorious, are acceptable; include the URL and date accessed.

## Official Sources

**Spelling:** *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*.

**Soil:** For soil series names see *Soil Series of the United States, Including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands* (USDA-SCS Misc. Publ. 1483, <http://ortho.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/cgi-bin/osd/osdname.cgi>). Amendments to the U.S. system of soil taxonomy (Soil Survey Staff, 1975) have been issued in the *National Soil Survey Handbook* (NRCS, 1982-1996) and in *Keys to Soil Taxonomy* (Soil Survey Staff, 1996). Updated versions of these and other resources are available at <http://soils.usda.gov/>. The *Glossary of Soil Science Terms* is available both in [hard copy](#) and on the SSSA Web page (<https://www.soils.org/publications/soils-glossary>). It contains definitions of more than 1800 terms, a procedural guide for tillage terminology, an outline of the U.S. soil classification system, and the designations for soil horizons and layers.

**Scientific Names of Plants:** *A Checklist of Names for 3000 vascular plants of Economic Importance* (USDA Agric. Handb. 505, see also the USDA Germplasm Resources Information Network database, <http://www.ars-grin.gov/npgs/searchgrin.html>).

**Chemical Names of Pesticides:** *Farm Chemicals Handbook* (Meister Publishing, revised yearly).

**Fungal Nomenclature:** *Fungi on Plants and Plant Products in the United States* (APS Press).

**Journal Abbreviations:** Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (American Chemical Society, revised yearly).

## Manuscript Publication Fees

Membership in SSSA is not a requirement for publication in *Soil Horizons*. There are no fees for publication in *Soil Horizons*. Authors may choose to make their paper open access for a fee of \$800. Authors may purchase reprints and PDF files. Reprint orders and publication charges are invoiced after the complete issue goes online.