

The Instruction for Authors

The journal publishes **original scientific papers, short communications and review articles**. Papers are published in **English (British spelling)**. Manuscripts must be submitted in carefully edited English. The author is fully responsible for the originality of the paper and formal correctness.

The Open Access License should be enclosed declaring that the paper is original and has not been published previously elsewhere (you will find it on the websites www.agriculture.sk and <https://sciendo.com/journal/agri>).

The Editorial Board decides on the publication of papers, taking into account peer reviews, scientific importance, and manuscript quality.

Scientific papers should not exceed **7,500 words**, including tables and figure captions.

Review articles focusing on special topics of interest and summarising latest scientific information, up to **10,000 words** are preferred.

The short communication format is intended for presentation of important observations that can be clearly described in abbreviated format. It should have an abstract and should not exceed **2,500 words**. There are no subheadings in the short communication and a description of materials and methods should be integrated in the text.

The SI - international system of measurement units should be used.

The journal does not have article processing charges (APCs) nor article submission charges.

Reviewer's evaluation

All scientific contributions will be evaluated by the Editorial Board and if meeting topics-related and formal requirements, they will be sent to at least two referees. The reviewers are asked to return papers within **3 weeks**. On the basis of the reviews, scientific importance and quality of manuscript the Editorial Board will make a decision if a manuscript will be accepted for publication or rejected.

After reviewer's evaluation

The author is liable for return the corrected manuscript to the editorial office within **3 weeks**. All points of the review should be answered i.e. manuscript should be amended according to reviewer's requirements or reasons for leaving it unchanged should be explained in an accompanying letter. All changes in the manuscript must be highlighted by colour.

Sending the corrected proof

The author has to return the made-up manuscript proofreading. He must send it back within **2 days**. Within this stage of manuscript preparation for printing, corrections are done only for such errors that arise during the work in the Editorial Office.

Manuscript layout: The paper should be on standard size of paper (A4 format), Times New Roman, type size 12 font, double-space lines, 2.5 cm margins on each edge of the page. MS Word should be used. If any abbreviations are used, they shall be explained appropriately when they are used in the text for the first time. Latin words are to be written *in italics*. Tables, graphs and other material are to be submitted separately to the text. Word editor should be used to create tables, for tables, each item should be placed in a separate cell. Maximum size 16.4 (width) x 23 cm (height) = one page per table. Tables are to be numbered with Arabic numerals in the order in which they are referred to in the text and have a brief, but self-explanatory title. Abbreviations or symbols used in the tables must be explained either in the table title or as a footnote. Column headings should be as brief as possible; the units should be indicated in square brackets. Significance of differences is marked as an index (e.g. 0.45⁺⁺ or 0.45^{ab}). No vertical lines should be used. Graphs should be provided in MS Excel editor (stored with original data) or as a figure (tiff), without a shadow outline and background and without grid. Size of figures should either match the column width (7.6 cm) or their width must not exceed 16 cm, the maximum height is 23 cm; the units should be indicated in square brackets. Photos, figures and diagrams in format tiff, gif, jpg, psd, eps – in CMYK; resolution min. 300 dpi. Coloured photos can be published in the printed version in degrees of grey colour, however coloured in pdf format on the journal web page.

Title page must contain title of paper (short, not exceeded 85 characters; no subtitles and abbreviations should be used), complete name(s) of the authors, the name(s) and address(es) of the workplace.

Abstract is a short summary of the whole paper. It should describe all essential facts of a scientific paper. Summary should provide the reader sufficient information about the objective, method(s) and the most important results. It should be self-explanatory, concisely written and intelligible as much as possible. It should not exceed 250 words. No references are to be cited in the abstract.

Key words (up to 7 words) should differ from the words mentioned in the title.

The Introduction should outline the main reason why the research was conducted, describe a brief review of literature consisting of refereed periodicals, journals and books. The last paragraph should include the statement of objectives and hypotheses.

Material and Methods: All material, experiments conducted, their extend, conditions and courses should be described in detail in this section. All original procedures that were used for the processing of experimental material and all analytical methods used for evaluation should also be detailed. The whole methodology is only to be described if it is an original one, otherwise it is sufficient to cite the author of the method and to mention any particular differences. Methods of statistical processing, including the software used should also be listed in this section.

Results should be processed in a clear way illustrated by tables and figures. Parallel documentation of identical results in tables and figures is not admissible. The authors should confront partial results with data published by other authors, whose names and year of publication are to be cited by including them in the text directly, e.g. ...as published by Lutz (1987), Keller *et al.* (1997), Welsch and Miranda (2001) found ..., or citing authors and years of publication in parenthesis (Lutz 1987; Welsch & Miranda 2001; Keller *et al.* 1997).

Discussion: It is necessary to evaluate the results mainly with respect to factors which could affect them, and to confront them with the results of other authors in such way to be obvious what is new in the obtained results, how do they differ or agree with the results of other authors or with hitherto knowledge. Asked scientific questions should be answered briefly at the end of this section. Results and discussion can be presented in one heading.

Conclusions must be clear and brief. They should define clearly (in points if possible) the obtained new knowledges, the most important results, their scientific or practical significance and recommendation for the practice and/or for the direction of further research.

Acknowledgement and information regarding the funding sources will appear at the end of the text, before the References section.

References should provide the list of refereed literature arranged in alphabetical order according to the surname of the first authors. The full title of all authors should be followed by the year of publication, the original title of the paper, the full name of the periodical, the relevant volume, the number of periodical and page numbers. In the case of book or proceedings the title should be followed by the name of the publisher and the place of publication. Literary sources should be cited in English language. Only primary sources should be mentioned, which base on own results of the cited authors. The references should consist of peer periodicals (mainly peer-reviewed). It is not recommended to cite the results of paper from conferences, no research reports, dissertation and habilitation theses should be cited. Only papers cited in the text should be included in the list of references.

REFERENCE EXAMPLES:

Journal Article

Format:

Last name, First initial. (Year published). Article title. *Journal*, Volume(Issue), Page(s). DOI:...

Examples:

Ross, N. (2015). On truth content and false consciousness in adorno's aesthetic heory. *Philosophy Today*, 59(2), 269-290. DOI:...

Dismuke, C. and Egede, L. (2015). The impact of cognitive, social and physical limitations on income in community dwelling adults with chronic medical and mental disorders. *Global Journal of Health Science*, 7(5), 183-195.

Book

Format:

Last name, First initial. (Year published). *Title*. Edition. (Only include the edition if it is not the first edition) City published: Publisher, Page(s).

Example: One author AND first edition:

Patterson, J. (2005). *Maximum ride*. New York: Little, Brown, 500p.

Example: One author AND NOT the first edition:

Dahl, R. (2004). *Charlie and the chocolate factory*. 6th ed. New York: Knopf, 400p.

Example: Two and more authors:

Vermaat, M., Sebok, S., Freund, S., Campbell, J., and Frydenberg, M. (2014). *Discovering computers*. Boston: Cengage Learning, 500p.

Daniels, K., Patterson, G., and Dunston, Y. (2014). *The ultimate student teaching guide*. 2nd ed. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications, 300p.

Book chapter or article in an edited book

Format:

Last name, First initial. (Year published). Chapter title. In Last name, First initial (Ed./Eds.) *Book Title*, 1st ed.* City: Publisher, Page(s).

Example:

Bressler, L. (2010). My girl, Kylie. In Matheson, L. (Ed./Eds.) *The Dogs That We Love*, 1st ed. Boston: Jacobson Ltd., pp. 78-92.

* When citing a chapter in an edited book, the edition is displayed, even when it is the first edition.

Article in proceeding

Format:

Author(s) (Year of publication). Chapter title. In Editors of the proceedings (Ed./Eds.) *Title : proceeding from international conference*. Place of publication: Publisher, (page range).

Citations for journal articles found on a database or on a website

Format:

Last name, First initial. (Year published). Article Title. *Journal*, [online] Volume(Issue), pages. Available at: URL [Accessed Day Mo. Year].

Example:

Raina, S. (2015). Establishing correlation between genetics and nonresponse. *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine*, [online] Volume 61(2), p. 148. Available at: <http://www.proquest.com/products-services/ProQuest-Research-Library.html> [Accessed 8 Apr. 2015].

The author's address: On a separate sheet of paper, the author should include full name (co-authors' full names), including all academic and scientific degrees and detailed address of the institution with the postcode and e-mail address. The author who is responsible for any correspondence with the journal has to be indicated clearly.

Detailed instructions for contributors to Agriculture (Poľnohospodárstvo) are available on the websites www.agriculture.sk and <https://sciendo.com/journal/agri>.

Contact address: agriculture@nppc.sk

Compliance with these instructions is obligatory for all authors. If a manuscript does not comply exactly with the above requirements, the Editorial Office will not accept it and will return it to the authors without reviewing.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

The metric system is adopted as standard. You should use the international system of units. If non-standard abbreviations must be used they should be defined in the text.

Use the fundamental quantity with the appropriate prefix:

kilo	k
mega	M
giga	G
tera	T
milli	m
micro	μ
nano	n
pico	p

Units of length:

<u>meter</u>	m
kilometer	km
centimeter	cm
millimeter	mm
micrometer	μm
nanometer	nm

Units of area:

<u>square meter</u>	m^2
square kilometer	km^2
hectare (10,000 m^2)	ha
square centimeter	cm^2
square millimeter	mm^2

Units of volume:

<u>cubic meter</u>	m^3
cubic centimeter	cm^3
<u>liter</u>	L
milliliter	mL
microliter	μL

Units of mass:

gram	g
kilogram	kg
tonne	t
milligram	mg
microgram	μg

Units of density:

g/cm^3 , kg/m^3 , t/m^3 , g/L , kg/L

Units of pressure:

pascal	Pa
megapascal	MPa

Units of time:

second	s
minute	min
hour	h
day, week, month, year	day, week, month, year

Units of temperature:

Celsius	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Kelvin	K

Additional physical units:

dalton	Da
hertz	Hz
joule	J
volt	V
watt	W

Relative units:

parts/million parts	ppm
parts/billion parts	ppb
parts/trillion parts	ppt
percentage	%
weight	w
volume	V

Units of electrical conductivity:

siemens per meter	S/m
millisiemens per meter	mS/m
(mS/cm; $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	
ohm	Ω

Units of concentration:

<u>mole per kilogram (liter)</u>	$\text{mol}/\text{kg}(\text{mol}/\text{L})$
millimole (micromole)	mmol/kg
per kilogram	$(\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg})$
gram per kilogram	g/kg
milligram per kilogram	mg/kg
microgram per kilogram	$\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$

Similar units for volume:

g/L , mg/L , mg/mL , $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$

Units of irradiation:

watt per square meter	W/m^2
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Units of photon flux density:

mol per square meter per second	$\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$
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Units of yield, sampling and rate:

kilogram per hectare	kg/ha
tonnes per hectare	t/ha
liter per hectare	L/ha
gram per hectare	g/ha
gram per square meter	g/m^2
gram per kilogram	g/kg
milligram per kilogram	mg/kg

Units of cation exchange capacity (CEC):

mmol of chemical equivalent per kilogram of soil or other materials
 Similar units for volume of cation exchange.

mmol₊/kg

Content of nutrients in plants, soils, and other materials is necessary to state always as pure element (C, N, P, K, Ca, S, Fe, etc.), so dose of nutrients or compounds, for example, 1 g S applied in the form of calcium sulphate (CaSO₄). You should use the dose of nutrients as a pure element per specified area, or weight soil, container, etc. and you should use the slash, for example, 110 kg N/ha, or write 110 kg N per ha. You should not use the indexes as 110 kg N/ha, (1 g N/container, 10 mg Cu/kg soil).

Forms of nutrients:

Nitrite nitrogen	NO ₂ ⁻ -N
Nitrate nitrogen	NO ₃ ⁻ -N
Ammonia	NH ₄ ⁺ -N
Total nitrogen	N _{tot}
Sulfur in sulfate	SO ₄ ²⁻ -S

You should use the content of organic matter in soils (topsoil, soil organic matter, etc.) entirely as C.

You should specify the form of the determined element, possibly the method of determination, by using subscripts. For example, the content of carbon is determined by oxidometric methods as C_{ox}, furthermore C_{org}, C_{tot}, C_{ox} humic acids, and its solubility C_{hwc}, etc.

You should use the FAO guidelines (Food and Agriculture Organization) for characterization of habitat conditions (soil type description according to WRB – World Reference Base for Soil Resources 2015 version, soil textural class), as well as altitude, average rainfall and temperature, and if possible coordinates as well. Or you should use USDA soil taxonomy cited in USDA 2010. Keys to Soil Taxonomy. 11th edition. Soil Survey Staff, United States Department of Agriculture: Natural Resources Conservation Service. Washington, DC. 344 pp. ISBN: 016085427X.

You should assess the weather in different years and months, according to the recommendations of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – according to deviations from long-term average or normal.

You should use the method of nutrients determination in soil, for example, content of P (Olsen, Egner, Mehlich III, etc.), as P_{Olsen}, P_{Egner}, etc.

You should not use the symbol of magnesium (Mg) for 1,000 kg (megagram) but use it as the unit tonne (t). Don't use the symbol M for the expression of amount of substance, but use the mol (mmol, μmol).

To simplify the expression of contents, use relative units, especially % (10⁻²) and ppm (10⁻⁶). If you may keep the same unit in tables and graphs (in any case you should not use absolute and relative units, such as g/kg and %).

Statistical symbols and abbreviations

analysis of variance	ANOVA	variance (sample)	s ²
coefficient of variation	CV	standard deviation (sample)	SD
degree of freedom	df	standard error	SE
F-distribution	F	standard error of the differences of means	SED
least significant difference	LSD	standard error of mean	SEM
sample size	n	t-(or Student) test	t
probability	P	mean	x
simple correlation coefficient	r	Additional use symbols	
simple correlation of determination	r ²		
multiple correlation coefficient	R		
multiple correlation of determination	R ²		
		dry weight (matter)	DW (DM)
		fresh weight (matter)	F W (FM)
		water use efficiency	WUE