**NOTE: This template is meant to provide high-level assistance with formatting manuscripts for submission to *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. More information is provided about the formatting of each of these sections in our** [**official style guide**](https://www.sciencesocieties.org/publications/journals/author-resources/style-manual)**. Journal specific author instructions can be found** [**here**](https://www.sciencesocieties.org/publications/journals/author-resources/sssaj-instructions)**.**

Title in sentence caps

Author list and affiliations: Do not include any identifying information, such as the author list or affiliations on submission. This information should be placed in your Title Page file.

Abbreviations: Please list abbreviations in alphabetical order with the abbreviation first, separated from its definition by a comma. Please use semicolons to distinguish separate abbreviations.

**PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY**

You may include a plain language summary (limit 1000 characters). The summary should be clear, concise, and free from jargon. See guidelines for writing plain language summaries [here](https://www.sciencesocieties.org/publications/journals/plain-language-summaries).

Abstract

The abstract should be a single paragraph of 250 words or less. It should be specific, telling why and how the study was made, what the results were, and why they were important. The abstract should read like a “mini-manuscript” with 1 to 2 sentences each for a justification/rationale, objective(s), methods, results, and conclusion.

1 Introduction

Keep the introduction short, but include (i) a brief statement of the problem that justifies doing the work, or the hypothesis on which it is based; (ii) the findings of others that will be further developed or challenged; and (iii) an explanation of the general approach and objectives. This last part may indicate the means by which the question was examined, especially if the methods are new.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Header 2

2.2.1 Header 3

In the Materials and Methods section, give enough detail to allow a competent scientist to repeat the experiments, mentally or in fact. For information about product names, proprietary materials, the names of plants and other organisms, and references, please see our style guide, [chapter 1](https://www.agronomy.org/files/publications/style/chapter-01.pdf), page 7–8. For information on equations, please see our style guide, [chapter 6](https://www.agronomy.org/files/publications/style/chapter-06.pdf).

3 Results and Discussion

Use tables, graphs, and other illustrations in the Results section to provide the reader with a clear understanding of representative data obtained from the experiments. Call attention to significant findings and special features, but do not repeat what is already clear from an examination of the graphics. If you have minimal results, describe them in the text.

Use the Discussion section to interpret your results. Whether combined with the Results section or standing alone, the Discussion section should focus on the meaning of your findings, not recapitulate them. For more information, please see [chapter 1](https://www.agronomy.org/files/publications/style/chapter-01.pdf) of our style guide.

Acknowledgments

Do not include the acknowledgments during submission. This information should be placed in your Title Page file.

Conflict of Interest

Do not include conflicts of interest during submission. This information should be placed in your Title Page file. If there is no conflict, a default statement “The authors declare no conflict of interest” is acceptable.

ORCID

Do not include the ORCID iDs during submission. This information should be placed in your Title Page file.

Supplemental Material

Please include a brief summary of your supplemental materials, if any. When using supplemental material to shorten the text of a manuscript, keep in mind that the Materials and Methods section should provide enough detail to allow the reader to determine whether the interpretations are supported by the data. Supplemental material must be free of identifying information on submission. All supplemental material should be uploaded as a separate file or files. For more information on acceptable file types and formatting, please see our style guide, [chapter 1](https://www.agronomy.org/files/publications/style/chapter-01.pdf), page 9.

Optional Sections

Optional sections include data availability (required if depositing a dataset to Dryad or other data depository) and appendices. Please list each separately and make sure they are properly labeled. Make sure there is no identifying information listed in any of the optional sections. Optional sections that include identifying information should be placed in your Title Page file.

References

All in-text reference citations must be formatted using the author-year system and must be listed in alphabetical order. Please do not use numbering for your references.

References and citations should follow APA style. For more information about reference formatting, please see our style guide, starting in [chapter 1](https://www.agronomy.org/files/publications/style/chapter-01.pdf), page 10.

Figures and Tables

All tables and figures should be listed near their callouts in the main document on submission. All tables must be created using the table feature in word, not using tabs and spaces. Please do not insert blank columns or rows. Please put all units of measure together in a separate row. For more information about figure and table formatting, please see [chapter 5](https://www.agronomy.org/files/publications/style/chapter-05.pdf) of our style guide.

Figure 1. This is an example figure legend.

Table 1. This is an example table.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aa | B | C | D | E |
|  | kg ha-1 | | mg | |
| 1 | Asdf | Yes | 12 | Data |
| 2 | Asdf | Yes | 34 | Data |
| 3 | Asdf | No | 56 | Data |

aTable footnote