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horticultura brasileira
Revista da
Associação Brasileira de Horticultura

# Style & Format Guidelines of the journal Horticultura Brasileira

(Version 6.5, January 26, 2018)

The Style & Format Guidelines of Horticultura Brasileira were developed exclusively to assist you in the preparation of your manuscript. Compliance with the instructions contained herein will significantly speed up the processing of your work.

These guidelines have two parts: the first deals with the style of scientific writing we expect to see in the manuscripts submitted to Horticultura Brasileira; while the second deals with the adequacy of the text to the norms of publication we follow in the journal. Use the first part (Style) mainly when writing or editing your text. Use the second part when the text is ready to adjust it to our norms.

The guidelines are under constant updating. Always use the latest version, available at www.horticulturabrasileira.com.br.

## Part 1. Style

All scientific papers are written to communicate new scientific findings to society. To fulfill this primary and fundamental role, papers have to be read and understood. Therefore, they are written to the readers, not to the authors. To be read, it should be pleasing, the reading should flow and holds readers' attention. To be understood, it must be clear and precise and privilege the main message. The whole first part of these guidelines was developed to help authors reach these two objectives.

Always place yourself in the reader's position: what, in fact, do you appreciate in a scientific paper when you read it? What, in your opinion, is adequate in such a text and what is not? What kind of text favors your understanding?

### General Indications

1. The scientific text must be clear and precise: the fewer words, the better. Main messages should appear soon and stand out in the text;

2. Use short sentences, in the direct ordering of the idiom: subject, verb and object. This construction demonstrably favors understanding;

3. Use verbs instead of their corresponding nouns. This also demonstrably favors readers' understanding. For example, prefer to establish than establishment; to develop than development, and to describe than description, and so on;

4. Before submitting your paper, ask colleagues who are unfamiliar with the subject to review it. Check with them if main messages were understood. If not, identify the causes and redo the text;

## Title

5. The title is the most read section of any scientific article. It is also the first contact between the reader and the paper. It should be attractive, concise and informative at the same time. It must be creative and innovative, but without being confusing;

6. The title should arouse the reader's interest in the paper;

7. Avoid the old-fashioned and boring "Effect of ...", "Behavior of ...", "Evaluation of ..." and similar. See for yourself: which of the titles below draws your interest the most?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Survey of the main issues demanded by consumers of organic vegetables | or | What do consumers of organic vegetables want? |
| Effect of phosphate fertilization on tomato productivity | or | Increasing phosphorus doses doubles tomato yields |
| Correlation between agronomic characteristics and production of essential oils to assist genotype selection in mint | or | Correlation between agronomic characteristics and essential oil production: a new tool in mint breeding |
| The use of morphological characteristics to describe chrysanthemum cultivars | or | Unequivocal morphological description of chrysanthemum cultivars |
| Influence of temperature and irrigation depth on gherkin production in the northeastern semiarid zone | or | Gherkin production: overcoming heat and water deficit |

8. Avoid including limitations on the applicability of your results in the title such as, for example, geographical confinement or specific growth conditions, unless it highlights your work;

## Authors

9. It is compulsory to indicate how each author contributed to the work when submitting manuscript;

10. To define the authors, adopt the following criteria, based on the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors:

10.1. Authors are only those who can effectively take credit and, above all, responsibility for the manuscript. The author is publicly accountable for the accuracy, reliability and integrity of data and results;

10.2. Authors are those who contributed substantially in the conceptual stage and in planning and designing the experiments, or in the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data;

10.3. Authors are also those whose intellectual contributions altered so significantly the manuscript that they can be publicly accountable for result interpretation, and conclusions;

10.4. Do not grant the author status to those who contributed only collecting and analyzing data; or only supplying genotypes, seeds or other inputs; or even those who only discussed the experiments and their results or only assisted in text writing or reviewing. To acknowledge their contribution, use the section Acknowledgments;

10.5. The general supervision of the work and/or financing of the research group alone do not justify authorship. To recognize the contribution, use the section Acknowledgments;

## Abstract / Abstract

11. The abstract is the second most read section in a scientific paper, right after the title. Therefore, it has a direct influence on the manuscript impact. A good summary should arouse the reader's interest by the complete work;

12. The good abstract draws the attention of readers in general and not just those familiar with the topic. So it should be easy to understand;

13. The abstract should be concise, clear and direct, but also informative;

14. Despite the space limit, the good summary should present:

(a) A brief rationale of the problem and the importance/relevance of the work;

(b) Objective (s);

(c) Main elements of Material and Methods;

(d) Results, if possible backed by numbers;

(e) Main conclusion(s)

(f) Contribution of the results to solve/mitigate the problem and/or to advancement of knowledge;

15. The abstract and the *resumo* should be the best version of each other and not mere translations;

## Keywords / Keywords

16. The more appropriate the keywords, the greater the number of readers, boosting the article impact;

17. Keywords/*Palavras-chave* should be adequate versions of each other;

## Introduction

18. Put your work into context by identifying:

(a) The scientific problem the manuscript deals with;

(b) The importance (rationale) of the problem;

(c) State-of-the-art of the problem (recent articles, latest discussions and results about it, etc.);

(d) Why you carried out your work? How does it differ from what has already been done? In what way is it innovative in relation to the others? Why is it important for the reader to know your results?

19. When presenting figures on the socio-economic importance of the object of your work, use recent information (maximum of three to five years);

20. Close the introduction with the manuscript main objective: present it as clearly and directly as possible;

## Material and Methods

21. The basic purpose of the Material and methods section is to demonstrate to the reader that the work was carried out in compliance with the scientific method and that results are robust. This objective should guide the preparation of the section;

22. Materials and methods should be described in order to demonstrate the reliability of results, but avoiding superfluous details;

23. The methods should allow the objective (s) of the work to be achieved;

24. Present the location and the date or season of the experiment (s);

25. Mention the experimental design used, the number of replications and the size of the plots;

26. Indicate the statistical analysis used and, where applicable, the data transformation applied;

## Results and Discussion

27. Put yourself in the reader's place: how many times have you given up a manuscript because you could not find the results to which the title (and abstract) drew your attention? Avoid this in your own work;

28. Give absolute priority to your most relevant results: list them right in the first paragraph;

29. Especially in papers where many characteristics are assessed, do not fall into the trap of giving them all the same relevance. Just after the opening paragraph of Results and Discussion, where the most important results must be indicated, it is enough to briefly mention the less relevant results in a second paragraph, turning immediately to the interpretation of the most striking results in the rest of the section. Focus on what is relevant. Do not lose your reader's attention;

30. Discuss your findings in the light of the available knowledge. However, to discuss is not to list a series of papers that have found similar or distinct results. To discuss is to use the available knowledge to explain and theorize about the results;

31. Sentences such as "As seen in Table 1, ...", "Figure 1 shows ...", "The results of ... are presented in table 1." should not be used. Results should be interpreted and discussed in the text, indicating, in brackets, the chart, figure or table that illustrates them, as follows:

- Yields of cultivar Alpha were higher in summer than in winter crops (Table 1);

- Plant development was exponential in the first part of the cycle (Figure 1), independent of the differential incidence of disease observed at this stage (Table 1);

32. Close the section with the main conclusion (s) of the paper, indicating its contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the topic.

## Acknowledgments

33. Use the section to acknowledge the relevant contributions to the work and the manuscript, such as:

- Authors thank Seeds of Brazil S/A for making seeds of cultivars Alfa and Beta available;

- We thank Dr. Victoria Tozzi for her assistance in the statistical analysis;

- We would like to thank Dr. Christopher Koppe for carefully reviewing the manuscript and to his valuable inputs in the discussion of results.

- The authors are grateful to Lilian Baptista and Geraldo Mendes for their contribution in data collection and processing of samples;

- The first author (optionally, mention author's name as it appears at the beginning of the paper) holds a fellowship from CNPq (the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) fellow. The third author is a CNPq Scientific Initiation Fellow;

- Authors thank FAPEMIG (Foundation for Research Support of the state of Minas Gerais), contract 1923/2017, for partially funding the work;

## References

34. Limit the references to the minimum necessary to cover the theme;

35. References must indicate that authors are updated with the theme;

## Charts, Figures and Tables

36. Less is more: the more chart, figures and tables, the less highlight to the actually relevant results;

37. Charts, figures and tables should assist the reader, not please the author. Do not record all your experimental data in chart, figures and tables, but only those that, in fact, illustrate the relevant results of the work;

38. Charts, figures and tables must be clear, objective and self-explanatory. The reader should not need to consult other sections of the manuscript to understand them;

39. Charts, figures and tables should not be redundant;

40. Observe carefully the use of decimals. If decimals are really needed, keep the number of decimal places to the minimum. The more numbers on a table, the greater the visual pollution and the chances of readers missing the point.

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## Part 2. Format

The second part of this manual refers to the adaptation of the manuscript already prepared to the norms of the journal Horticultura Brasileira. If you are looking for guidelines on how to prepare the text of the manuscript, please refer to the first part of this manual.

### General Indications

1. The term variety should be used only in its taxonomic sense. When this is not the case, it should be replaced by cultivar;

2. Scientific names should be written in italics only and not in bold italics (e.g., *Solanum tuberosum*);

3. Once the connection between the scientific name and the common name is made, the common name should preferably be used in the manuscript;

### Citing authors in the text

4. Use the initial of the surname in uppercase (Thompson 2012);

5. Place the citation in brackets (Resende & Costa 2015);

6. For more than two authors, use the Latin expression et alli abbreviated, in italics (Diederich *et al*. 2016);

7. Identify papers from the same author(s), in the same year, by a lowercase letter shortly after the manuscript publication year (Morel *et al*. 2017a,b);

8. Papers from the same author(s) published in different years should have the publication year separated by commas (Inoue-Nagata *et al*. 2013, 2016);

9. When several papers are quoted in tandem, use the publication chronological order (Popescu *et al*. 2010, Anderson & Singh 2015, Alagba *et al*. 2016, Ouma & Little 2017);

### Title

10. In bold;

11. Use capital letters only in the first letter of the first word and in proper nouns;

12. In the title, use the common name and not the scientific name of the species the manuscript deals with, unless there is not a common name;

13. The title must be shorter than 120 characters, including spaces;

### Authors and address (see example after the number 20)

14. Present the authors' names in bold, separated by commas;

15. Present authors' full names, abbreviating intermediate surnames, but not proper (given) names, even when compounds. For example:

- Luiz Felipe Andrade Monteiro should appear as Luiz Felipe A Monteiro (note that there is no point after the abbreviation of Andrade);

- Exception: double surnames, with or without a hyphen, such as Smith-Lane or Castelo Branco. Both must appear in full;

16. Relate authors to their respective institutions through superscript numbers and use semicolons to separate authors' addresses;

17. Present the name of the institution and department, when applicable, followed by the city and country, and author's electronic address;

18. Do not Include degrees (Dr., Prof., etc.);

19. Transfer the mentions to fellowships to Acknowledgments;

20. When undergraduate or graduate students are authors or co-authors, it is enough to relate them to the educational institution. It is not necessary to indicate that they are students;

Example

**Pedro Augusto B de Lima[1], Ann Claire Dolan[2], José Enrique Cruz-Sosa[3]**
[1]Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense (UENF), Campos dos Goytacazes-RJ, Brazil, pedro.lima@uenf.br; [2]University of York, York, United Kingdom, acdolan@york.ac.uk; [3]National University of Colombia (UNAL), Palmira, Colombia, cruz-sosa@unal.edu.co

## Keywords

21. Always start with the scientific name of the species the paper deals with;

22. It is not necessary to include words that already appear in the title;

23. Do not use more than 6 keywords (or indexing terms);

## Abstract

24. Limited to 1200 characters, including spaces;

25. If you are unable to produce a summary (abstract in Portuguese), the editorial board will provide one;

## Material and methods

26. Present the geographical coordinates between brackets, as follows: (22º32'27''S, 54º42'35''W, 765 m of altitude);

27. On the dates, always use the name of the month: February 12, 2008; April 14, 2017;

28. Always mention the statistical analysis used and, where appropriate, the transformations of data applied;

29. Present units of measure as follows: t $ha^{-1}$, mg $dm^{-1}$, etc.;

30. Represent numbers up to fifteen by their names (e.g., seven evaluations, ten flowerbeds, fourteen trays, etc.). Thereafter, use digits (e.g., 17 days after planting, 25 observation points, 42 plots, etc.);

31. Always use digits to represent quantities followed by units of measure, as well as days of the month and year (2 t $ha^{-1}$, 8 g, 15 mL, 18 cm, February 7, 2017);

## References

32. From 25 bibliographical references, authors are responsible for the cost of converting each additional reference into metadata;

33. At least half of the references must be of articles with not more than ten years of publication, except in special cases duly justified by the authors;

34. Do not use conference abstracts or papers published in conference proceedings, except in special cases duly justified by the authors;

35. All works cited in the manuscript must have been listed in the references and vice versa;

36. There should be no mismatch in the spelling of authors' surnames and year of publication between the citation in the text and in the References;

37. Follow the guidelines of Horticultura Brasileira (printed in the first issue of each volume and available online in www.horticulturabrasileira.com.br) to present the references;

38. Sort the references in alphabetical order by the surname of the first author;

39. Present the references according to the following examples:

### a) Scientific Journal

SILVA, CQ; RODRIGUES, R; BENTO, CS; PEPPER, S. 2017. Heterosis and combining ability in ornamental chili pepper. *Horticultura Brasileira* 35: 349-357.

### b) Book

FILGUEIRA, FAR. 2008. *Novo manual de olericultura*. Viçosa, BR: UFV. 412p.

### c) Book chapter

MUHAMMAD, L; UNDERWOOD, E. 2004. The maize agriculture context in Kenya. In: HILBECK, A; ANDOW, DA (eds). *Environmental risk assessment of genetically modified organisms*. v.1. A case study of Bt maize in Kenya. Wallingford, UK: CABI International. p. 21-56.

### d) Dissertations and theses

HIJBEEK, R. 2017. *On the role of organic matter for crop production in European arable farming*. Wageningen, NL: Wageningen University. 211 p (Ph.D. thesis)

**e) Full papers published in conference proceedings** (when not included in journals. Only cite papers presented at conferences after consulting the editorial board):

**e.1) Proceedings**

van JOST, M; CLARK, CK; BENSON, W. 2007. Lettuce growth in high soil nitrate levels. In: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NITROGEN USE IN HORTICULTURE, 4. *Annals*... Utrecht, NL: ISHS. p. 122-123.

**e.2) CD-ROM**

BRUNE, S; MELO, PE de; REIS, A. 2006. Resistance characteristics of potato genotypes to early blight. In: BRAZILIAN CONGRESS OF VEGETABLE CROPS, 46. *Abstracts*... Goiânia, BR: ABH. (CD-ROM).

**f) Electronic media sources**

**f.1) Website**

AUTHORSHIP OR SOURCE. Year. *Title or main page header*. Available at: URL. Accessed January 15, 2018

**f.2.) Publication**

AUTHORS OR SOURCES. Year. *Title of document*. Responsible/Editor. Available at: URL. Accessed January 15, 2018

**Charts, Figures and Tables** (see example after item 45)

40. The limit for each category (chart, figures or tables) is three, with a global limit of five (two figures and three tables or vice versa, for example);

41. Headings, caption and footnotes must be bilingual (if you are not acquainted with the Portuguese, the editorial board will provide translations);

42. Finish headings indicating always, in this order: place where the work was carried out, responsible institution(s) and year;

43. Use decimal places only when necessary, thus avoiding charts and tables polluted by many numbers. Present very small numbers multiplied by $10^3$ or higher power, indicating the unit of measure along with the trait description in the first row of the table or in the caption of the chart;

44. Charts, figures and tables should be self-explanatory. Use footnotes, if necessary, to provide additional information;

45. Horticultura Brasileira standard for headings and footnotes should be strictly observed, including the mention of the statistical analysis.

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Table 1. Commercial production, average weight of commercial tubers, post-frying performance and tolerance to greening in potato tubers (Produção comercial, peso médio dos tubérculos comerciais, aproveitamento após a fritura e tolerância ao esverdeamento em tubérculos de batata). Brasília, Embrapa Hortaliças, 2017.

| Genotypes | Commercial yield[1] t ha$^{-1}$ | Average weight of comercial tubers[1] (g) | Post-frying performance[2] (%) | Tolerance to greening[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BRS Ana | 32.1 a | 192 a | 100.0 a | 6.0 a |
| Asterix | 36.7 a | 190 a | 100.0 a | 6.0 a |
| Atlantic | 27.9 a | 152 ab | 100.0 a | 7.0 ab |
| Monalisa | 18.1 b | 147 ab | 85.0 b | 9.0 b |
| Ágata | 11.6 b | 126 b | 80.0 b | 9.0 b |
| CVs (%) | 53.4 | 18.08 | 6.02 | 11.70 |

Means followed by the same letter in the column did not differ significantly from each other, Tukey, p<0.05 (Médias seguidas de mesma letra nas colunas não diferem estatisticamente entre si, Teste de Tukey, p<0,05).
[1]Tubers with a transversal diameter larger than 45 mm (tubérculos com diâmetro transversal superior a 45 mm); [2]Percentage of French fries adequate to the market (porcentagem de palitos adequados à comercialização após a fritura); [3]Tolerance to tuber greening, assessed using a scale from 1 – no greening – to 9 – strong greening, after a 15-day light exposure period (tolerância ao esverdeamento avaliada através de escala de notas de 1 – sem esverdeamento - a 9 – esverdeamento intenso, após quinze dias de exposição à luz).