Another growing season has passed. I have two main reasons for loving nursery work. First, I get to work with an extraordinary group of individuals; those relationships often transcend the work environment and some of my dearest friends are the same people with whom I share my love of nursery work. One of those good friends, John Harrington, a professor at New Mexico State University, was tragically killed this summer riding his bike home from his nursery. John and I worked together, on and off, for more years than either of us care to confess. He reviewed manuscripts for this journal and had agreed to come on as my “forestry” associate editor shortly before his passing. It makes me sad for so many reasons, and makes me appreciate more everyone else I’m still working with, especially my managing editor, Candace Akins. Without her, NPJ just wouldn’t happen. I also thank my associate editors, Diane Haase, Rick Hammer, James Muir, Deborah Rogers, Nancy Shaw, Daniela Shebitz, Steven E Smith, and Sandra Wilson. And, my thanks to all the reviewers who never really get the recognition they deserve: Chris Adams, James R Ault, Jim Borland, John Brissett, Robert Brzuszek, Michelle Crum, Bert Cregg, Danny Gustafson, Marshall Haferkamp, Stuart P Hardegree, John Harrington, Dave Haywood, Robert L James, Robert P Karrfalt, Mary H Meyer, Hector Perez, William D Pitman, Joe Scanna, Forrest S Smith, Ryan Stewart, Vic Vankus, Jeffrey Walck, Katherine Wilkin, Kim M Wilkinson, and Truman P Young. I must also say good-bye to Pamela Wilson at the University of Wisconsin Press; thank you for what you’ve done for NPJ.

The second reason I love nursery work is that this time each year, I get rid of my mistakes. Once the frost comes and the crop is done, whether it was good or bad, it no longer really matters because that crop is out the door. Next spring I can start fresh, let go of my past failures, look with hopeful anticipation toward growing that perfect crop, but knowing full well that some plants will probably still humble me in yet another new way. I’ll see you again in Spring 2012 with another issue of Native Plants Journal. Please tell your friends about us.

R Kasten Dumroese

On the cover: Feathered icicles on a Woods’ rose (Rosa woodsii Lindl. [Rosaceae]) shrub. Photo by Niklaas K Dumroese
Have a great idea for an article but don't have time or need help writing? Please e-mail. We can help.

Two types of manuscripts are welcome:

General technical articles are not research per se (lack strict experimental design and statistical analysis), but have important information for growers and planters of North American native plants. Articles could include new planting techniques, useful equipment, cultural techniques, habitat restoration, restoration techniques, production trends, technical information, descriptions of new species or cultivars entering nursery production, and so on. Propagation protocols are short, concise general articles detailing the specific methods used to propagate a particular plant. Germplasm releases are short articles that follow a standard format (see past issues) and announce the release of new plant materials for conservation use.

Refereed research articles (and scientific reviews or commentary) must have sound application of scientific method, appropriate statistical analysis, and state how the research is important to growers and planters of North American native plants. Accepted papers will be published with a “Refereed Research Article” designation.

All submitted manuscripts will be peer-reviewed by 2 referees to ensure the objective of Native Plants Journal is met.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Include a cover letter indicating what type of manuscript is being submitted (refereed or general). Refrain from special formatting. Use of active voice is encouraged. All text except tables and figure captions should be double-spaced. The first page should have title and author information (include full names of authors, their professional titles and affiliations, mailing and electronic addresses, and specify corresponding author to whom all pre-publishing correspondence should be sent).

The second page should contain the title, abstract, and key words. Abstracts should be double-spaced and brief and emphasize results, use of scientific method, appropriate statistical analysis, and state how the research is important to growers and planters of North American (Canada, Mexico, and US) native plants. Authors are strongly encouraged to make the first sentence of their abstract describe the most important finding of their work. Include 3 to 7 key words not in the title. Use the PLANTS database as the source for nomenclature (see below). Print an abbreviated title and page number in the upper right corner of this and all subsequent pages. Use line numbering. Construct tables using the table feature of word processing programs.

Follow the second page with the “Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, References,” or some other logical system as headings, followed by figure captions and tables. For matters of style, we generally follow Scientific Style and Format, The Council of Biology Editors Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, 6th edition (ISBN 0-521-47154-0).

Use metric (SI) units with US units in parentheses and abbreviate all units, except those without numerical value (for example, “we measured parts per million and found 250 ppm nitrogen”). Use numerals for any countable amount (for example, 3 replicates, 2 populations).

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In the text, please list citations by date, and then alphabetically by author (for example, Smith 1986, 1997; Jones and Smith 1992; Smith and Jones 1992; Doe and others 1998). In the references section, list references alphabetically by author(s) and please do not abbreviate the name of the referenced journal. Examples:


NOMENCLATURE

Use common names with scientific names (including authorities and family names) in parentheses the first time used in the abstract and body of the manuscript (if scientific names with authorities and families are summarized in a table, they need not be repeated in the body of the manuscript). All subsequent use can be either the common or scientific name. Example with common name: whitetop pine (Pinus albicaulis Engelm. [Pinaceae]). Example without common name: Phacelia rattanii Gray. (Hydrophyllaceae). The standard source of plant nomenclature is the PLANTS database (http://plants.usda.gov). Authors may use common names found in PLANTS or the local vernacular. Other nomenclature sources may be used only if justified. The nomenclature source should be included in the references.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Manuscripts should be submitted via the Internet at http://npj.msubmit.net. Files will be converted to PDF when uploaded. Text and tables should be saved as one file. Graphics (graphs, drawings) should be in black and white and saved as individual jpg, tif, eps (preferred), SigmaPlot (preferred), or Adobe Photoshop files. Excel files embedded in manuscripts are acceptable for manuscript review but unacceptable for publication. Color slides or photographs are fine and can be sent directly to the Editor; digital images must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at a minimum width of 10 cm (4 in), although larger-sized images are preferred. Include photo credits.

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Before accepted manuscripts can be published, authors must complete a consent to publish form.

Photo credits opposite page: (top) Volunteers sowing perennial bunch grasses at the Martin Griffin Preserve at Audubon Canyon Ranch by May Chen; (middle) computer screen image from the Cover Monitoring Assistant (CMA) program; (bottom) bigleaf lupine (Lupinus polyphyllus Lindl. [Fabaceae]), dwarf checkerbloom (Sidalcea malviflora (DC.) A. Gray ex Benth. ssp. virgata (Howell) C.L. Hitchc. [Malvaceae]), and riverbank lupine (Lupinus rivularis Douglas ex Lindl. [Fabaceae]) by Lynda Boyer.
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