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Candace Akins, our dedicated and talented managing editor, recently recommended that I look into the work of Norman C Deno as a means of securing publication content for the Native Plants Journal. Having never heard of Deno, I probed his writings. Prior to his death in 2017, he was a career-long Professor of Chemistry at Penn State University. But his unrelated contribution to the plant world is what caught my attention. Turns out Deno was an avid amateur horticulturist and plant biologist. He incorporated his expertise in chemical function into personal studies on seed germination. His work included species whose habitat spans the world. Among this broad range are many native plants with which most of us have familiarity. Deno’s unique approach to problems associated with germination led to information that has potential to resolve serious propagation problems in restoration and reclamation projects. So, I have spent the past three months going through Norman Deno’s research papers, extracting applicable data for native species from the vast amount of information he generated as he recorded investigations on more than 800 genera and 2500 species. Candace and I are in the midst of preparing a series of articles documenting Deno’s discoveries, the first of which is found in this issue of NPJ. (And Candace acknowledges sincere thanks to a fellow attendee of the Native Plants in the Landscape conference who visited the NPJ display table and emphatically urged her that NPJ needed to learn more about Norman Deno’s plant studies.) It appears that it will take five additional articles to fully document his work on native plants. But, when finished, these articles should provide a rich resource to anyone involved in propagation. We are grateful to Norman’s wife, Janet Lucas Deno, who gave us permission to access and publish his research. I trust that it will prove to be of value to many of us.

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.

Referred 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 “Referred 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 (referred or general). Refrain from special formatting. Use active voice is encouraged. All text except tables and figure captions should be double-spaced. The first page should have the 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, usefulness, and practicality 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 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).

REFERENCES

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:


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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: whitebark 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.

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Photo credits opposite page: (top) Hudsonia ericoides L. (pine barren goldenheather [Cistaceae]) in Duncan’s Cove Nature Reserve, Nova Scotia, photo by Jeremy Lundholm; (middle) Aquilegia scopulorum Tidestr. (Rocky Mountain blue columbine [Ranunculaceae]), Aberdeen, Idaho, photo by Stephen Love; (bottom) Taxodium (dwarfed pond cypress [Cupressaceae]) in Francis Marion National Forest, Berkeley County, South Carolina, photo by LL Gaddy.
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