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On the Cover: Okay, corn (Zea mays L.) probably isn’t the first species to come to mind when discussing native plants, but see page 105 for why it could. Photo R Kasten Dumroese
Yes, we're open for business. I'm glad I can still say that. It's been a rough year to stay focused on the actual editorial content of the journal. The abrupt closure of the University of Idaho Press left a tangle of loose threads to deal with, but fortunately the team at Indiana University Press is enthusiastic about the journal, supportive, and organized—I look forward to a rewarding relationship with them.

This issue has an emphasis on genetics. I don't know about you, but at times genetics seems like a foreign language to me. I'm sure we can all agree, however, that a basic understanding is paramount to our business of growing and planting native species. So, with this issue, we'll ease some of you into the topic with a genetics primer that helps define some of the basic terminology, and then provide all of you with some manuscripts that deal with important genetic issues. In an attempt to be pragmatic, we're also publishing some seed transfer guidelines to show that genetic research is making a difference on the ground. The Spring 2005 issue will have a second installment of genetics articles dealing with more terminology and associated practical aspects, seed transfer guidelines, and speciation.

In addition to the genetics articles, this issue contains a broad representation of other topics gathered from across North America. You can read about using native legumes in the central US, revegetating the Sonoran Desert with container stock and drip irrigation, using compost to grow Florida natives, making compost and inoculating it with beneficial microorganisms in Mexico, storing acorns, and propagation protocols for sagebrush and oak. And, a couple of books are reviewed as well.

The Native Plant Network website has a new look at http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org. Articles from the first 10 issues of this journal are available in a searchable database, as well as roughly 2000 propagation protocols for North American native plants.

I send a hearty thank you to Rob Kalmbacher and Sandra Wilson who managed to send me important information about their manuscripts even as their lives were disrupted by the hurricanes in Florida. A special thank you to Gabriela Buamscha for her translation work. And finally, a well-deserved thank you to the following individuals for reviewing manuscripts. Their efforts are most appreciated.

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AUTHOR GUIDELINES

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 articles include articles that are not research per se (lack strict experimental design and statistical analysis), but have important information for growers and planters of 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.

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

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

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Format and style
Include a cover letter indicating what type of manuscript is being submitted (refereed research 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 of the manuscript should have the title and page number in the upper right corner. The second page should contain the title, abstract, and keywords but not author names. Abstracts should be double-spaced and brief (100 to 150 words or less) and emphasize results, usefulness, and practicality.

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 family names) in parentheses the first time used in the abstract and body of the paper, then use either the common or scientific name. Example with common name: whitebark pine (Pinus albicaulis Engelm. [Pinaceae]). Example without common name: Phacelia ratonii Gray. (Hydrophy-