

An eclectic forum for dispersing practical information about planting and growing native plants.

R Kasten Dumroese, Editor

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Native Plants Journal is starting into its seventh year of publication, continuing to focus on all aspects of growing and planting native plants. *NPJ* had several original objectives and still strives to meet them. First, create dialogue among researchers and field personnel. Second, keep the information timely and easy to obtain. And third, become a self-sufficient venture. To that end, *NPJ* has a few quirks. I thought you might like to know why we do some of what we do.... **Advertising.** *NPJ* accepts advertising because it helps connect field personnel with suppliers and it is essential for keeping *NPJ* in full color at a reasonable subscription price. Although *NPJ* prints advertisements, a single issue will never have more than 10% of its pages in advertising. **Reviewing.** Everything submitted to *NPJ* is reviewed by at least 3 people (2 reviewers and an editor). This contributes to the quality of the articles. For refereed research articles, it ensures that sound science is presented. For general technical and propagation protocols, it ensures that the material presented is pertinent and easy to understand. We want information provided by scientists to be useful to field personnel, and we want scientists to see what issues are paramount in the field. **Style.** Combining refereed research with general papers is one reason we use the *Council of Biological Editors: Scientific Style and Format* as our standard reference. So those weird abbreviations, use of both metric and English equivalents, a unique reference style, and use of more straight forward language (for example, using "for example" instead of "e.g." or using "and others" instead of "et al.") are done solely to make exchange of information easier for *NPJ*'s diverse audience. I know that irks some scientists and tests the patience of some nursery managers, but in the end I hope you agree that getting good information out to folks who need it makes it worth the effort. **Nomenclature.** *NPJ* may be the only journal that requires authors to show their source of scientific names, and to provide complete scientific names with authorities and families. The reality is that *NPJ* caters to a broad range of clientele who work in a profession where scientific names are in a constant state of flux and common names are a dime a dozen. Providing the nomenclature information minimizes ambiguity, allowing everyone to get onto the same page, so to speak.

Starting with this issue, *NPJ* is now using associate editors to help with the review load. It's just too much for me to handle alone, and although I could spend all of my time working on *NPJ*, the USDA Forest Service requires other things of me. Also, coming soon, *NPJ* will begin using an on-line manuscript submission site. This should help keep the review process timely and streamline layout and printing. Indiana University Press handles the business end of production (marketing, printing, distribution) and working with an educational entity like them is a natural fit. Our editing and layout folks work on contract and are excellent at what they do. Not having a permanent staff helps keep costs down, which helps keep the journal affordable.

So, in your hands is another effort by a fine cadre of folks, sharing information about growing and planting native plants. We hope you enjoy reading some of the papers presented at the 3rd Pacific Northwest Native Plant Conference, the usefulness of new molecular technology, work on establishing wetland plants and native grasses, the pros and cons of different plantation spacings in southern forests, and how to modify a piece of equipment previously described in *NPJ*.

Thank you for your patronage. Thank you for your subscription. Thank you for understanding we all have a common mission in regard to native plants.



R Kasten Dumroese

On the cover: Sulphur-flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum* Torr. [Polyganaceae]).
Photo by Kas 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 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 or commentary) 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

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 but not author names. Abstracts should be double-spaced and brief (100 to 150 words or less) 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 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 *Sci-*

entific 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 (first time only) 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:

Journal article: Arnold MA, Struve DK. 1989. Growing green ash and red oak in CuCO₃-treated containers increases root regeneration and shoot growth following transplant. *Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science* 114:402-406.

Entire book: Davidson H, Mecklenburg R. 1981. *Nursery management: administration and culture*. 2nd ed. Englewood Cliffs (NJ): Prentice-Hall Inc. 450 p.

Article in proceedings: Dumroese RK, Wenny DL. 1997. Fertilizer regimes for container-grown conifers of the Intermountain West. In: Haase DL, Rose R, coordinators and editors. *Symposium proceedings, forest seedling nutrition from the nursery to the field*; 1997 Oct 28-29; Corvallis, OR. Corvallis (OR): Oregon State University Nursery Technology Cooperative. p 17-26.

Internet source: [USDA NRCS] USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2004. The PLANTS database, version 3.5. URL: <http://plants.usda.gov> (accessed 20 Jan 2005). Baton Rouge (LA): National Plant Data Center.

Government article: Barnett JP, Brissette JC. 1986. Producing southern pine seedlings in containers. New Orleans (LA): USDA Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station. General Technical Report SO-59. 71 p.

Thesis or dissertation: Wang Z. 1990. Effects of cupric carbonate on container-grown seedlings of ponderosa pine during greenhouse production [MSc thesis]. Moscow (ID): University of Idaho. 67 p.

Personal communication: Hoss GA. 2002. Personal communication. Licking (MO): Missouri Department of Conservation, George O White State Forest Nursery. Nursery Superintendent.

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: white-bark pine (*Pinus albicaulis* Engelm. [Pinaceae]). Example without common name: *Phacelia rattanii* Gray. (Hydrophyllaceae). The standard source of 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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