
SOUTHERN FORESTS: A JOURNAL OF FOREST SCIENCE

Instructions to Authors

Southern Forests: a Journal of Forest Science accepts longer scientific, management and review papers or shorter research, management (application) or technical notes. Please study the format and style of a recent journal and ensure that your contribution adheres to the Instructions to Authors. Contributions should be presented in plain English. Contributions acceptable to peers should be well structured, precise and concise. Contributions with a main body text of about 3000 words will be given preference. Authors are responsible for proofreading publisher's copy to ensure accuracy of information published. A PDF file of published papers will be made available electronically by the publisher to corresponding authors.

Manuscript format: Manuscripts must be prepared using Microsoft Word (font Arial or Times New Roman, 12 pt), double spaced, preferably with lines numbered. Tables, figures and images should be on separate pages. The manuscript should be submitted electronically to the Editor-in-Chief at saif@mweb.co.za.

Headings: Hierarchical sequence to be used: sentence-case bold, sentence-case italics and bold, then sentence-case italics non-bold. Subdivisions must be designated (1), (2), etc. and further subdivisions (i), (ii), etc. Do not number headings.

Footnotes: Should be avoided in the text, if at all possible. Indicate by means of numeric superscripts, thus 1.

Abbreviations: Avoid abbreviations but, if necessary, use international standardised ones. Give full names before using uncommon abbreviations. New abbreviations only acceptable for unwieldy names that occur frequently in specific text. Do not use unusual abbreviations in the abstract. Acronyms should be identified when first used and in upper case e.g. Forestry South Africa (FSA).

Units of measure: SI units must be used. For yield use the form $\text{m}^3 \text{ha}^{-1} \text{y}^{-1}$, wood density use g m^{-3} . Slope should be recorded in degrees, not per cent. Parts per million should be expressed as mg kg^{-1} , $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$. Use units that are appropriate to the nature of the work being reported, e.g. ha rather than the SI base unit m^2 . Use cm for DBH values, log and pole diameters. List of 'Standard Symbols' appears on www.saif.org.za (see Forestry Journal) and www.nisc.co.za.

Numbers: Use figures where a unit of measurement is given, e.g. 2 m, but use the word for numbers under 10 or at beginning of a sentence. Numbers larger than 999 should be divided into groups of three figures, e.g. 2 570; 42 500 000. Separate items in a string of figures with semi-colons. Use decimal fractions. Where common fractions are unavoidable, type thus: $\frac{3}{4}$. Use full-stop for a decimal point, e.g. 1 245.105.

Formulae: Symbols in mathematical formulae should be set in italics, except operators (sin, log, ln, exp) and constants, which will be in Roman type, and matrices and vectors, which will be set in bold type. Use the simplest formulae that can be made by ordinary mathematical calculations. Type formulae as far as possible in one line, e.g. $(a + b)/(r + y)$. Fractional exponents must be typed thus: $x^{2/3}$ or $x^{0.5}$. Superior over inferior notation must be typed thus: x_2^3 .

Dates and times: In the text write out the month in full, e.g. 17 November 1995, although this may be shortened in tables and figures. Use 24-hour clock for times of the day, e.g. 06:30.

Punctuation: Use single quotation marks to enclose direct primary quotations, and double quotation marks for secondary quotations (i.e. quotations within quotations).

Tables and figures: Tables and figures should be on separate pages, and numbered in Arabic numerals; figures grouped together must be numbered using lower-case chronological letters. These items should be readily understood, without reference to the text. Two-dimensional graphics and histograms are preferred and shading patterns should be kept simple. Photographs and other artwork should be presented as high-resolution scans (300 dpi, actual size) and saved as TIFF, JPEG or EPS files. Authors must ensure that their figures conform to the style of the journal as costs of redrawing illustrations may be charged. Please refer to www.nisc.co.za for figure format and style conventions, and exemplars. Illustrations can be printed in colour, but only when essential, and subject to negotiation with the Editor-in-Chief.

References: References should be cited in the text in the following forms: Swart (1972); Swart (1972a, 1972b); Swart and White (1973); Swart (1972, 1973); (Swart 1970, Smith 1971). With more than two authors, use first author's name followed by et al. throughout (Rypstra et al. 1979). Cite references alphabetically and then chronologically at end of manuscript. Use full journal titles. Examples (refer to www.nisc.co.za for more examples):

- Acocks JPH. 1975. Veld types of South Africa (2nd edn). *Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa* 40. Pretoria: Botanical Research Institute, Department of Agricultural Technical Services.
- Brack C. 1996. Tree shape. Available at: <http://sres-associated.anu.edu.au/mensuration/shape.htm> [accessed on 9 October 2006].
- Peace TR. 1962. *Pathology of trees and shrubs with special reference to Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rolando CA, Hitchins M, Olivier S. 2006. *Methods to improve late season planting of Pinus patula*. *ICFR Bulletin Series No. 08/2006*. Pietermaritzburg: Institute for Commercial Forestry Research.
- Rypstra T, Vermaas HF, Sanderson R. 1979. Dimensional stabilisation of wood: factors influencing it and the principles of treatment. *South African Forestry Journal* 108: 22–28.
- Uggle C, Sundberg B. 2002. Sampling of cambial region tissues for high resolution analysis. In: Chaffey NJ (ed.), *Wood formation in trees*. London: Taylor and Francis. pp 215–228.

References should only include works cited in the text. In the case of publications in any other language than the one you are using the original title is to be retained, except where translated versions are cited. A paper may only be cited 'in press' if it has been accepted by a journal and is included in the References. A paper not yet accepted should be cited in the text as 'unpubl. data' with author's initials and omitted from the References. Personal communications should be used sparingly and cited in the text thus, giving the correspondent's affiliation: (WJ Smith pers. comm., [institution], [year]).

Manuscript structure: Manuscripts should be drafted as follows:

Title: Brief but descriptive. Should indicate site of study, e.g. Mpumalanga, South Africa. Do not give authorities for scientific names, though family and/or order in parenthesis is often desirable. Use common names only when widely known or unequivocal. Follow title with name(s) of author(s) and affiliation address(es). Follow with corresponding author e-mail address.

Abstract: Must not exceed 300 words. Should present clearly the objective of study, methods used, results and conclusion. At least three keywords must be included.

Introduction: Places the study in context. Discuss historical, theoretical and hypothetical background to study, motivation and objectives.

Materials and methods: Describe precisely. Provide sufficient information and detail that the reader can conduct an independent assessment of procedures and analyses carried out. The assumptions and statistical models must be clearly stated and the presentation of results sufficiently detailed. Information on sample size, sampling methods, experimental design, precision of measurements and sampling units must be succinctly provided.

Results: Present comprehensive data, mainly in Figures and Tables, but use the latter to present detailed information precisely. Make sure that table captions and figure legends are explicit and contain all the information to stand alone. The statistical significance of all the reduced data must be indicated by relevant measures of variance. Descriptions should focus attention on significance of data in tables and figures. Avoid matters appropriate to 'Discussion'.

Discussion: Relate your findings to those of earlier studies and present the state of the subject. Opinions expressed on the value, validity and veracity of this work and that of others must be backed by evidence. Be concise and avoid speculation and reiteration of results. Results and Discussion can be amalgamated, but separation is preferable.

Conclusions: Close off the study by providing a guide to fellow scientists for future investigations or to practitioners willing to apply the study results.

Acknowledgements: If appropriate, briefly acknowledge your institution, employer, funding agency, and those who rendered assistance.
