

Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science

Our goal is to bring high-quality research to the widest possible audience

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS (REGULAR ISSUE) (Manuscript Preparation & Submission Guide)

Revised: August 2026

Please read the *Pertanika* guidelines and follow these instructions carefully. The Chief Executive Editor reserves the right to return manuscripts that are not prepared in accordance with these guidelines.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Manuscript Types

Pertanika accepts submission of mainly **4** types of manuscripts

- that have not been published elsewhere (including proceedings)
- that are not currently being submitted to other journals

1. Regular article

Regular article is a full-length original empirical investigation, consisting of introduction, methods, results, and discussion. Original research work should present new and significant findings that contribute to the advancement of the research area. *Analysis and Discussion* must be supported with relevant references.

Size: Generally, each manuscript is **not to exceed 6000 words** (excluding the abstract, references, tables, and/or figures), a maximum of **80 references**, and **an abstract of less than 250 words**.

2. Review article

A review article reports a critical evaluation of materials about current research that has already been published by organising, integrating, and evaluating previously published materials. It summarises the status of knowledge and outlines future directions of research within the journal scope. A review article should aim to provide systemic overviews, evaluations, and interpretations of research in a given field. Re-analyses as meta-analysis and systemic reviews are encouraged.

Size: Generally, it is expected **not to exceed 6000 words** (excluding the abstract, references, tables, and/or figures), a maximum of **80 references**, and **an abstract of less than 250 words**.

3. Short communications

Each article should be timely and brief. It is suitable for the publication of significant technical advances and maybe used to:

- reports new developments, significant advances and novel aspects of experimental and theoretical methods and techniques which are relevant for scientific investigations within the journal scope;
- reports/discuss on significant matters of policy and perspective related to the science of the journal, including 'personal' commentary;
- disseminates information and data on topical events of significant scientific and/or social interest within the scope of the journal.

Size: It is limited to **3000 words** and have a maximum of **3 figures and/or tables**, **from 8 to 20 references**, and **an abstract length not exceeding 100 words**. The information must be in short but complete form and it is not intended to publish preliminary results or to be a reduced version of a regular paper.

4. Others

Brief reports, case studies, comments, concept papers, letters to the editor, and replies on previously published articles may be considered.

Language Accuracy

Pertanika emphasises on the linguistic accuracy of every manuscript published. Articles can be written in **English** and they must be competently written and presented in clear and concise grammatical English/Bahasa Malaysia. Contributors are strongly advised to have the manuscript checked by a colleague with ample experience in writing English manuscripts or a competent English language editor. For articles in Bahasa Malaysia, the title, abstract and keywords should be written in both English and Bahasa Malaysia.

Author(s) **may be required to provide a certificate** confirming that their manuscripts have been adequately edited. **All editing costs must be borne by the authors.**

Linguistically hopeless manuscripts will be rejected straightaway (e.g., when the language is so poor that one cannot be sure of what the authors are really trying to say). This process, taken by authors before submission, will greatly facilitate reviewing, and thus, publication.

MANUSCRIPT FORMAT

The paper should be submitted in **one-column format** with 1.5 line spacing throughout. Authors are advised to use Times New Roman 12-point font and *MS Word* format.

1. Manuscript Structure

The manuscripts, in general, should be organised in the following order:

- **Page 1: Running title**

This page should **only** contain the running title of your paper. The running title is an abbreviated title used as the running head on every page of the manuscript. The running title **should not exceed 60 characters, counting letters and spaces.**

- **Page 2: Author(s) and Corresponding author's information**

General information: This page should contain the **full title** of your paper **not exceeding 25 words**, with the name of all the authors, institutions and corresponding author's name, institution and full address (Street address, telephone number (including extension), handphone number, and e-mail address) for editorial correspondence. **The corresponding author must be clearly indicated with a superscripted asterisk symbol (*).**

Note: Corresponding author **can not** be changed upon first review cycle.

Authors' name: The names of the authors should be named **in full without academic titles**. For Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese), please write first name and middle name before surname (family name). The last name in the sequence is considered the surname.

Authors' addresses: Multiple authors with different addresses must indicate their respective addresses separately by superscript numbers.

Tables/figures list: A list of the number of **black and white/colour figures and tables** should also be indicated on this page. See "**5. Figures & Photographs**" for details.

Example (page 2):

Extraction of High-quality RNA from Metabolite and Pectin Rich Recalcitrant Calyx Tissue of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.

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List of Table/Figure:

Table = 1

Figure = 4

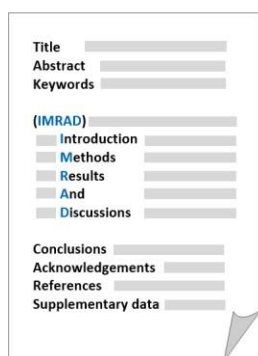
• Page 3: Abstract

This page should **repeat** the **full title** of your paper with only the **Abstract**, usually in one paragraph and **Keywords**.

Keywords: **Not more than 8 keywords in alphabetical order** must be provided to describe the content of the manuscript.

• Page 4: Text

A regular paper should be prepared with the headings *Introduction*, *Materials and Methods*, *Results and Discussions*, *Conclusions*, *Acknowledgements*, *References*, and *Supplementary data* (if any) in this order. The literature review may be part of or separated from the *Introduction*.



MAKE YOUR ARTICLES AS CONCISE AS POSSIBLE

Most scientific papers are prepared according to a format called IMRAD. The term represents the first letters of the words Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, And, Discussion. It indicates a pattern or format rather than a complete list of headings or components of research papers; the missing parts of a paper are: Title, Authors, Keywords, Abstract, Conclusions, and References. Additionally, some papers include Acknowledgments and Appendices.

The Introduction explains the scope and objective of the study in the light of current knowledge on the subject; the Materials and Methods describes how the study was conducted; the Results section reports what was found in the study; and the Discussion section explains meaning and significance of the results and provides suggestions for future directions of research. The manuscript must be prepared according to the Journal's instructions to authors.

2. Levels of Heading

Level of heading	Format
1 st	LEFT, BOLD, UPPERCASE
2 nd	Flush left, Bold, Capitalise each word
3 rd	Bold, Capitalise each word, ending with .
4 th	<i>Bold italic, Capitalise each word, ending with .</i>

3. Equations and Formulae

These must be set up clearly and should be typed double-spaced. Numbers identifying equations should be in square brackets and placed on the right margin of the text.

4. Tables

- All tables should be prepared in a form consistent with recent issues of *Pertanika* and should be numbered consecutively with Roman numerals (Table 1, Table 2).
- A brief title should be provided, which should be shown at the top of each table (**APA format**):

Example: Table 1

PVY infected Nicotiana tabacum plants optical density in ELISA

- Explanatory material should be given in the table legends and footnotes.
- Each table should be prepared on a new page, embedded in the manuscript.
- Authors are advised to keep backup files of all tables.

**** Please submit all tables in Microsoft Word format only, because tables submitted as image data cannot be edited for publication and are usually in low-resolution.**

5. Figures and Photographs

- Submit an **original** figure or photograph.
- Line drawings must be clear, with a high black and white contrast.

- Each figure or photograph should be prepared on a new page, embedded in the manuscript for reviewing to keep the file of the manuscript under 5 MB.
- These should be numbered consecutively with Roman numerals (Figure 1, Figure 2).
- Provide a brief title, which should be shown at the bottom of each table (**APA format**):

Example: Figure 1. PVY-infected in vitro callus of Nicotiana tabacum

- If a figure has been previously published, acknowledge the original source, and submit written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the material.
- Authors are advised to keep backup files of all figures.

**** Figures or photographs must also be submitted separately as TIFF or JPEG, because figures or photographs submitted in low-resolution embedded in the manuscript cannot be accepted for publication. For electronic figures, create your figures using applications that are capable of preparing high-resolution TIFF files.**

6. Acknowledgement

Any individuals and entities who have contributed to the research should be acknowledged appropriately.

7. References

- References begin on their own page and are listed in alphabetical order by the first author's last name. Only references cited within the text should be included. All references should be in 12-point font and double-spaced.
- If a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is listed on a print or electronic source, it is required to include the DOI in the reference list. Use Crossref to find a DOI using author and title information.

NOTE: When formatting your references, please follow the **APA-reference style** (7th edition) (refer to the examples). Ensure that the references are strictly in the journal's prescribed style, failing which your article will **not be accepted for peer-review**. You may refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (<https://apastyle.apa.org/>) for further details.

Examples of reference style are given below:

Books

Books	Insertion in Text	In Reference List
Book/E-Book with 1-2 authors	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Hamada, 2020) ... (Azlan & Khoo, 2015) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Hamada (2020) ... Azlan and Khoo (2015) ...	Hamada, Y. M. (2020). <i>Agribusiness as the future of agriculture: The sugarcane industry under climate change in the Southeast Mediterranean</i>. CRC Press. Azlan, A., & Khoo, H. E. (2015). <i>Nutritional quality and safety of marine fish and shellfish</i>. UPM Press.
Book/E-Book with 3 or more authors	<i>For all in-text references, list only the first author's family name and followed by 'et al.'</i> Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Karam et al., 2017) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Karam et al. (2017) ...	Karam, D. S., Abdu, A., Rajoo, K. S., Jamaluddin, A. S., & Karim, R. (2017). <i>Tropical forest soil characteristics in rehabilitated forests of Malaysia</i>. UPM Press.

Books	Insertion in Text	In Reference List
Book/E-Book with more than 20 authors		For books with more than 20 authors, please follow the guidelines for journal articles with more than 20 authors.
Chapter in an edited Book/E-Book	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Kaur, 2020) (Tautges & Seow, 2020) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Kaur (2020) ... Tautges and Seow (2020) ...	Kaur, G. (2020). Microbial phytases in plant minerals acquisition. In V. Sharma, R. Salwan, & L. K. T. Al-Ani (Eds.), <i>Molecular aspects of plant beneficial microbes in agriculture</i> (pp. 185-194). Academic Press. https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-818469-1.00016-X Tautges, N., & Seow, K. (2020). Pursuing agroecosystem in a long-term Mediterranean agricultural experiment. In G. Bhullar & A. Riar (Eds.), <i>Long-term farming systems research: Ensuring food security in changing scenarios</i> (pp. 53-66). Academic Press. https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-818186-7.00004-7
Editor	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Lichtfouse, 2020) (Bazer et al., 2020) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Lichtfouse (2020) ... Bazer et al. (2020) ...	Lichtfouse, E. (Ed.). (2020). <i>Sustainable agriculture reviews</i> 40. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-33281-5 Bazer, F. W., Lamb, G. C., & Wu, G. (2020). <i>Animal agriculture: Sustainability, challenges and innovations</i>. Academic Press.
Several works by the same author in the same year	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Arya et al., 2020a, 2020b) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Arya et al. (2020a, 2020b) ...	Arya, R. L., Arya, S., Arya, R., & Kumar, J. (2020a). Genetics, plant breeding and biotechnology. In <i>Fundamentals of agriculture: General agriculture - Agronomy</i> (Vol. 1, pp. 71-143). Scientific Publishers. Arya, R. L., Arya, S., Arya, R., & Kumar, J. (2020b). Seed science. In <i>Fundamentals of agriculture: General agriculture - Agronomy</i> (Vol. 1, pp. 196-215). Scientific Publishers.

Journals

Journals	Insertion in Text	In Reference List
Journal article with 1-2 authors	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Carolan, 2020) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Carolan (2020) ...	Carolan, M. (2020). Automated agrifood futures: Robotics, labor and the distributive politics of digital agriculture. <i>The Journal of Peasant Studies</i>, 47(1), 184-207. https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2019.1584189
Journal article with 3 or more authors	<i>For all in-text references, list only the first author's family name and followed by 'et al.'</i> Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Kumar et al., 2020) (Kumari et al., 2019) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Kumar et al. (2020) ... Kumari et al. (2019) ...	Kumar, A., Padhee, A. K., & Kumar, S. (2020). How Indian agriculture should change after COVID-19. <i>Food Security</i>, 12(4), 837-840. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-020-01063-6 Kumari, R., Choudhury, D., Goswami, S., & Dey, N. (2019). Physiological, biochemical, and molecular screening of selected upland rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.) lines from eastern India. <i>Bulletin of the National Research Centre</i>, 43(1), 56. https://doi.org/10.1186/s42269-019-0087-9
Journal article with more than 20 authors	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Tobler et al., 2017) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Tobler et al. (2017) ...	Tobler, R., Rohrlach, A., Soubrier, J., Bover, P., Llamas, B., Tuke, J., Bean, N., Abdullah-Highfold, A., Agius, S., O'Donoghue, A., O'Loughlin, I., Sutton, P., Zilio, F., Walshe, K., Williams, A. N., Turney, C. S. M., Williams, M., Richards, S. M., Mitchell, N. ... Cooper, A. (2017). Aboriginal mitogenomes reveal 50,000 years of regionalism in Australia. <i>Nature</i>, 544(7649), 180-184. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature21416

Journal article with an article number	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Bougnom et al., 2020) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Bougnom et al. (2020) ...	Bougnom, B. P., Thiele-Bruhn, S., Ricci, V., Zongo, C., & Piddock, L. J. V. (2020). Raw wastewater irrigation for urban agriculture in three African cities increases the abundance of transferable antibiotic resistance genes in soil, including those encoding extended spectrum β-lactamases (ESBLs). <i>Science of The Total Environment</i>, 698, 134201. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.134201
Journal article with missing information	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Pryce et al., 2018) (Saberri et al., 2018) (Rahman et al., 2020) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Pryce et al. (2018) ... Saberri et al. (2018) ... Rahman et al. (2020) ...	Missing volume number Pryce, J., Choi, L., Richardson, M., & Malone, D. (2018). Insecticide space spraying for preventing malaria transmission. <i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i>, (11), CD012689. https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD012689.pub2 Missing issue number Saberri, N., Aghababaei, M., Ostovar, M., & Mehrnabad, H. (2018). Simultaneous removal of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon and heavy metals from an artificial clayey soil by enhanced electrokinetic method. <i>Journal of Environmental Management</i>, 217, 897–905. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2018.03.125 Missing page or article number Rahman, M. T., Sobur, M. A., Islam, M. S., Levy, S., Hossain, M. J., Zowalaty, M. E. E., Rahman, A. M. M. T., & Ashour, H. M. (2020). Zoonotic diseases: Etiology, impact, and control. <i>Microorganisms</i>, 8(9). https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms8091405
Several works by the same author in the same year	Information prominent' (the author's name is within parentheses): ... (Lim et al., 2019a, 2019b) ... Or 'Author prominent' (the author's name is outside the parentheses): Lim et al. (2019a, 2019b) ...	Lim, L. W. K., Chung, H. H., Chong, Y. L., & Lee, N. K. (2019a). Enhancers in proboscis monkey: A primer. <i>Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science</i>, 42(1), 261-276. Lim, L. W. K., Chung, H. H., Chong, Y. L., & Lee, N. K. (2019b). Isolation and characterization of putative liver-specific enhancers in proboscis monkey (<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>). <i>Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science</i>, 42(2), 627- 647.

Newspapers

Newspapers	Insertion in Text	In Reference List
Newspaper article – with an author	... (Morales, 2020) ... Or ... Morales (2020) ...	Morales, C. (2020, November 13). Scientists destroyed a nest of murder hornets. Here's what they learned. <i>The New York Times</i> . https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/13/us/murder-hornets-us.html
Newspaper article – without an author	("Japan bird flu outbreak", 2020). OR "Japan bird flu outbreak" (2020) ... Use a shortened title (or full title if it is short) in Headline Case enclosed in double quotation marks.	Japan bird flu outbreak spreads to farm in fourth prefecture. (2020, December 01). <i>The Straits Times</i> . https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/japan-bird-flu-outbreak-spreads-to-farm-in-fourth-prefecture

Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/Thesis	Insertion in Text	In Reference List
Published Dissertation or Thesis References	... (Sutradhar, 2015) ... Or ... Sutradhar (2015) ...	Sutradhar, M. (2015). <i>Metagenomic analysis of rhizospheric microbial diversity in rice grown under irrigated and aerobic condition</i> [Master's thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences]. KrishiKosh. http://krishikosh.egranth.ac.in/handle/1/5810027635
Unpublished Dissertation or Thesis References	... (Rahman, 2017) ... Or ... Rahman (2017) ...	Rahman, F. (2017). <i>Ecological assessment of the reintroduced milky stork population in Malaysia</i> [Unpublished Doctoral dissertation]. Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Conference/Seminar Papers

Conference/Seminar Papers	Insertion in Text	In Reference List
Conference proceedings published in a journal	... (Dotaniya & Meena, 2015) ... Or Dotaniya and Meena (2015) ...	Dotaniya, M. L., & Meena, V. (2015). Rhizosphere effect on nutrient availability in soil and its uptake by plants: A review. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, India Section B: Biological Sciences</i> , 85(1), 1-12. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40011-013-0297-0
Conference proceedings published as a book chapter	... (Kurbatova et al., 2019) ... Or Kurbatova et al. (2019) ...	Kurbatova, S. M., Aisner, L. Y., & Naumkina, V. V. (2019). Some aspects of the essence and legal regulation of agriculture digitalization as one of the priorities of modern state policy of agriculture development. In <i>IOP conference series: Earth and environmental science</i> (Vol. 315, No. 3, p. 032021). IOP Publishing. https://doi:10.1088/1755-1315/315/3/032021
Online	... (Melanie et al., 2017) ... Or Melanie et al. (2017) ...	Melanie., Rustama, M. M., Kasmara, H., Sejati, S. A., Fitriani, N., & Madihah. (2017, October 25-26). <i>Pathogenicity of Helicoverpa armigera polyhedrosis sub culture virus (HaNPV₁) on Spodoptera litura Fabricius</i> [Paper presentation]. Prosiding Seminar Nasional Penelitian dan Pengabdian pada Masyarakat (SnaPP) 2017 Sains dan Teknologi, Bandung, Indonesia. http://proceeding.unisba.ac.id/index.php/sains_teknologi/article/view/988/pdf

Government Publications

Government Publications	Insertion in Text	In Reference List
Government as author	First in-text reference: Spell out the full name with the abbreviation of the body. ... Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2020) ... Or ... (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO], 2020) ... Subsequent in-text reference: ... FAO (2020) Or ... (FAO, 2020)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2020). <i>The state of food and agriculture 2020: Overcoming water challenges in agriculture</i> . FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb1447en

8. General Guidelines

Abbreviations: Define alphabetically, other than abbreviations that can be used without definition. Words or phrases that are abbreviated in the *Introduction* and following text should be written out in full the first time that they appear in the text, with each abbreviated form in parenthesis. Include the common name or scientific name, or both, of animal and plant materials.

Authors' Affiliation: The primary affiliation for each author should be the institution where the majority of their work was done. If an author has subsequently moved to another institution, the current address may also be stated in the footer.

Co-Authors: The commonly accepted guideline for authorship is that one must have substantially contributed to the development of the paper and share accountability for the results. Researchers should decide who will be an author and what order they will be listed depending upon their order of importance to the study. Other contributions should be cited in the manuscript's *Acknowledgements*.

Similarity Index: All articles received must undergo the initial screening for originality before being sent for peer review. *Pertanika* does not accept any article with a similarity index exceeding 20%.

AI Content Check: Manuscripts submitted to *Pertanika* must not contain more than 24% content generated by AI and AI-assisted technologies.

Copyright Permissions: Authors should seek necessary permissions for quotations, artwork, boxes or tables taken from other publications or other freely available sources on the Internet before submission to *Pertanika*. The *Acknowledgement* must be given to the original source in the illustration legend, in a table footnote, or at the end of the quotation.

Footnotes: Current addresses of authors if different from heading may be inserted here.

Page Numbering: Every page of the manuscript, including the title page, references, and tables should be numbered.

Spelling: The journal uses American or British spelling and authors may follow the latest edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary for British spellings. Each manuscript should follow one type of spelling only.

SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

All submissions must be made electronically using the **ScholarOne™ online submission system**, a web-based portal by Clarivate Analytics. For more information, go to our web page and click "**Online Submission (ScholarOne™)**".

Submission Checklist

1. MANUSCRIPT:

Ensure your manuscript has followed the *Pertanika* style particularly the first-4-pages as explained earlier. The article should be written in a good academic style and provide an accurate and succinct description of the contents ensuring that grammar and spelling errors have been corrected before submission. It should also not exceed the suggested length.

2. DECLARATION FORM:

- Author has to sign a declaration form. In signing the form, authors declare that the work submitted for publication is original, previously unpublished, and not under consideration for any publication elsewhere.
- Author has to agree to pay the publishing fee once the paper is accepted for publication in *Pertanika*.

3. COVER LETTER:

In Step 6 of the ScholarOne system, author is asked to upload a cover letter in *Pertanika* format. Please ignore this instruction and replace the cover letter with the **Declaration Form**.

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COPYRIGHT FORM: Author will be asked to sign a copyright form when the paper is accepted. In signing the form, it is assumed that authors have obtained permission to use any copyrighted or previously published material. All authors must read and agree to the conditions outlined in the form and must sign the form or agree that the corresponding author can sign on their behalf. Articles cannot be published until a signed form (original pen-to-paper signature) has been received.

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<http://www.pertanika.upm.edu.my/pitas/browse/prepress-issue> for "Pre-Press Articles"



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Any queries may be directed to the **Chief Executive Editor's** office via email to executive_editor.pertanika@upm.edu.my