

Author Guidelines – Tansley reviews

- The Tansley review series was initiated in 1985 to provide a service to the international community of plant scientists and to this end all reviews are made free to access upon publication.
- Named in recognition of the founder of the journal, Sir Arthur Tansley, the series has proved to be both authoritative and accessible. In keeping with Tansley's philosophy, we encourage a personal perspective, with lively and thought-provoking discussion.
- A typical Tansley review is approximately **6000 words** in length (8000 max.), with up to **150 references and 8 display elements** (we encourage the inclusion of at least one schematic figure that encapsulates the novel ideas and concepts presented).
- Although dealing with major research topics in some depth, the reviews should also be accessible to the nonspecialist. We would expect relevant older work to be discussed, but the review should be a forum for the presentation of ideas, rather than an exercise in literature documentation.
- Tansley reviews are fully peer-reviewed; referees are informed of these guidelines so that reviewing is done in the spirit intended.

Article style and structure

Full Author Guidelines relevant to all article types and submission instructions are available at www.newphytologist.com, but style notes specific to Tansley reviews are included below. Do refer to recent Tansley reviews for examples of style, content and format that are acceptable. A searchable database is available at www.newphytologist.org/reviews

Presentation of manuscript

Text should be 1.5-spaced with settings for letter (8.5 × 11 inch) or A4 (210 × 297 mm) paper. Use a consistent font throughout, for example Times New Roman 12-point (symbol palette for additional characters). Lines and pages should be numbered (to aid review use continuous numbering for lines). Both American and British English are acceptable if used consistently.

Title page

Include a concise and informative title (avoiding abbreviations), the author names and their addresses. Where authors have different addresses, use numbered superscripts to refer to each address provided. State the author for correspondence and include their telephone and email details. **Word counts** for the summary and main body of the text, plus the number of figures (indicating which figures should be published in colour), tables, boxes and supporting information must also be stated on the front page. The word count includes the main text of the article from the Introduction through to the end of the Conclusions section; it does not include the Title page, Summary, Acknowledgements, References and Figures/Tables/Boxes. Please note that manuscripts exceeding the maximum of 8000 words will usually be returned to the author at the point of submission.

Contents list

The Summary, subheadings of the main text, Acknowledgements and References should be collated into a Contents list. Note that only the main text subheadings should be numbered (i.e. not the

Summary and Acknowledgements) using upper case roman numerals (see <https://newphytologist.org/tansley-review-example-titlepage>).

Summary

The Summary, a single paragraph not exceeding 200 words, along with the title is the most important element of your article in terms of discoverability. It should be usable as a stand-alone document that informs the reader of the content and relevance of the review, including background information, specific examples of developments and the main conclusion(s) and outlook. It should not point to what will be discussed, but rather report the key insights and new understanding revealed through your review and synthesis of the topic covered. Citations of other papers should not be given within the summary and abbreviations should be avoided where possible.

Five to eight key words must be given at the end of the Summary.

Structure

The Introduction should outline the scope of the review in a manner that provides context and a 'way in' for the nonspecialist. It will include background information and an explanation of the importance and rationale behind the specific area to be reviewed. The introduction should not exceed 20% of the total word count. Although dealing with major research topics in some depth, the reviews should also be accessible to the general plant scientist. We would expect relevant older work to be discussed, but the review should be a forum for the presentation of ideas, rather than an exercise in literature documentation. We encourage a personal perspective, with lively and thought provoking discussion, but please provide a balanced outlook. The manuscript should end with a conclusion section that summarises the developments discussed and conclusions drawn, as well as providing an outlook shaping future research directions. Please note that unpublished data are not permitted.

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements should be presented in a separate section at the end of the main article (before the References).

References

References (a maximum of 150) should be listed at the end of the text in alphabetical order. Full style information, including links to reference management templates, is provided in the full Author Guidelines (www.newphytologist.com).

Tables, figures and boxes

We encourage the use of figures to support your analyses and hypotheses, and suggest that you include at least one schematic figure that encapsulates the novel ideas and concepts presented. Figures help to summarize and simplify complex and/or large amounts of information and provide an alternative means for the reader, particularly non-specialists, to understand the information being presented. You may include up to eight display elements in total (tables, figures or boxes). These must be self-explanatory and each presented on a separate page outside the main text, but as part of the same document. Display elements should always be referred to in the main text and should be numbered in the style Table 1, Fig. 1, Box. 1.

Tables should have a concise (single-sentence), informative heading and should be fully understandable either through column headings or, if these are insufficient in themselves, through a footnote.

Figures of Tansley review articles accepted for publication **will be finalised by a professional illustrator**; please note that figures (including colour schemes) may be changed to conform to our house style.

- Refer to all diagrams, graphs and photographs as 'Figures'.
- Present at approximately twice the size that they will appear. Ensure that, after reduction, they will be compatible with the double-column format of the journal.
- Subdivisions of figures should be labelled with lower case, bold letters (e.g. **(a)**, **(b)**) and referred to in the text in the form (Fig. 1a), (Fig. 1a,b). Avoid including explanatory material in the figure itself – this should be in the legend.
- Present diagrams and graphs on a white background, with lines approx. 0.5 mm thick, any shading inserted as lines or dots, and symbols should be approx. 3 mm across. The preferred symbols, in order, are open circles, closed circles, open and closed squares, and open and closed triangles. The same symbol should be used for the same entity in different figures. Axes should be clearly marked with units in brackets after the axis title.
- With photographs, include any scale bars on the picture. Where a figure is made up of several photographs, these should be abutted unless this affects the clarity.
- Figure legends should be included at the end of the main text (after the References). Key information describing each figure should be in the first sentence; the legend should be a self-contained, full explanation of the figure, with all abbreviations defined.
- To minimise publication time of your manuscript and help you achieve the optimum quality for your published figures it is important that all electronic artwork is supplied in the correct format and resolution. Please send the original working

files – this greatly facilitates the job of the illustrator when working on your figures. Line art (e.g. charts, graphs and illustrations) should be generated in a vector program and saved in EPS format at 600 dpi (other vector formats such as .ps, .ai and .pdf are also OK). Half-tones (e.g. photographs) should be saved in TIFF format at 300 dpi. Figures containing a combination of photographic images and text should be saved as EPS or PDF and any photographic images embedded within these files should be at least 300 dpi. Please also send a copy of the embedded image as a separate file.

- Further information on preparing figures can be found in the Electronic Artwork Guidelines at <http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/illustration.asp>.
- If you are reusing, adapting, modifying or redrawing previously published figures then permission should be sought from the original publisher and authors.

Boxes can be used for glossaries of specialist terms or abbreviations used in your review (*New Phytologist* standard and preferred abbreviations can be found in the Submission guide for Authors: <http://www.newphytologist.com/submissionguide>). Boxes can also be used to highlight or provide additional information on a particular aspect without disrupting the flow of the main text. Each box should not exceed 300 words.

Submission

Submit your Tansley review via the *New Phytologist* ScholarOne Manuscripts site (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/newphytologist/>).

Contact

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11 March 2019