Weed Science

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Editorial for *Weed Science*, Volume 71

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Editorial

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This past year has been another exciting year for *Weed Science*. The publishing industry, like many other areas of society, is undergoing rapid change. Through the changes and challenges, the journal remains strong because of authors, reviewers, and editorial board members. We appreciate the efforts of all to continue submitting and reviewing submissions. We are always appreciative of the efforts of reviewers and associate editors.

Weed Science continues to be one of the premier journals in the discipline and in the agronomic sciences. The editorial board and the staff strive to improve the efficiency of the publication process and improve the scope of the journal. *Weed Science* seeks to publish more reviews and symposium articles. For the coming year, we have should have a review lined up for every issue and hope to expand the 2015 special issue on research methods.

I want to highlight a couple of initiatives underway. First, we are still exploring the possibility of adding graphical abstracts to the journal. Second, I would like to point out to those who may not be aware that *Weed Science* like the other WSSA journals is a what we call a hybrid journal and does publish open access articles. There is a growing trend toward publishing in the open access format, and our data show articles published open access tend to have more downloads, social media mentions, and citations over time. In *Weed Science*, the number of articles published open access has grown substantially in the past year. In Volume 70, Issue 1, 6/15 articles were open access. Issue 4, which will be released soon after I write this, will have 15/16 articles published open access. This trend has been accelerated by Read and Publish agreements that Cambridge University Press has made with university and other research libraries around the world. If your university has a Read and Publish agreement with Cambridge University Press, the price to the author for publication is substantially reduced. To learn more and to see if your organization has a Read and Publish agreement, please check this site: https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies/waivers-discounts.

For the 12 months preceding October 1, 2022, 179 manuscripts were submitted to *Weed Science* compared with 197 and 222 for 2021 and 2020, respectively. We are concerned about the drop in submissions and are actively searching for solutions. Of the manuscripts submitted, 69.8% were accepted compared with 68.2% the previous year. The time from submission to first decision was 40.7 days this past year compared with 38.5 days for the previous year.

The impact factor for *Weed Science* decreased slightly from 2.713 to 2.580 for this past year and the 5-year impact factor decreased from 2.868 to 2.818. Although down a bit, the journal is still near a record-high impact factor.

For the year preceding October 1, 2022, the journal depended on 233 unique reviewers. The excellent reputation of the journal would not be possible without the cutting-edge research submitted by authors and the diligent work of the editorial board and the hundreds of referred reviews that are submitted annually. I wish to thank the members of the editorial board and reviewers for 2022.

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