Weed Science

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Editorial for *Weed Science*, Volume 70

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Editorial

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It has been an interesting couple of years in science as in other aspects of life. We appreciate the efforts of all to continue submitting and reviewing submissions during trying times. 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. This past year, *Weed Science* published a special issue on weedy rice and a review in every issue published this year. For the coming year, we have some interesting reviews lined up and hope to expand the 2015 special issue on research methods.

There are a few initiatives we are trying to pursue. We hope to add some reviewer training sessions for those interested in reviewing for the journal or wanting to hone their skills. We are exploring the possibility of adding graphical abstracts to the journal. Finally, 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 that articles published open access tend to have more downloads, social media mentions, and citations over time.

For the 12 months preceding October 1, 2021, 197 manuscripts were submitted to *Weed Science* compared with 222 in the previous 12-month period. Of the manuscripts submitted, 41.7% were accepted compared with 43.8% the previous year. The time from submission to first decision was 38.5 days this past year compared with 36.9 days for the previous year.

We are happy to report that the impact factor for *Weed Science* increased from 2.258 to 2.713 for this past year, and the 5-year impact factor increased from 2.441 to 2.868. I do want to point out the calculation for impact factor changed a bit this past year, so all journals saw a greater than average year to year increase in the impact factor. Nonetheless, it is a testament to the quality of submissions and review process.

For the year preceding October 1, 2021, the journal depended on 258 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 2021.

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