

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

General requirements

Zemdirbyste-Agriculture is an international journal that publishes, in English, original research papers and review articles containing new and significant information in the field of agricultural sciences, agronomy and related areas of life sciences. All contributions must be based on original research and contain novel findings, which have not been previously published in any other scientific journals (except as abstracts, theses, short reports). It is desirable that papers address the problems relevant for agriculture of a temperate climate zone. The contributions must present recent research data adequately statistically validated and followed by a comprehensive discussion of factors affecting results. Results reported in manuscripts must be based on repeated trials or experiments. Review articles are also considered but generally upon invitation by the Editorial Board.

Upon submission of the manuscript to the Editorial Office, the author(s) guarantee(s) that the material and the major scientific conclusions have not been previously published, and that the content of the manuscript and authorship have been agreed with the co-authors. Author(s) grants agreement to publish article in the Information System of Lithuanian Science and Study Electronic Documents – the Lithuania Academic Electronic Library (<http://aleph.library.lt>), CABI database and in the institution's website (www.lammezi.lt).

Suitability of the articles for this journal is approved, and its contents are arranged by the Editorial Board members, representing the key areas and branches of agronomy, and related areas of Life Sciences. Manuscripts may be rejected without peer-review by the editor-in-chief if they do not meet the instructions to authors, or do not fall within the scope of the journal.

Ethical requirements

Manuscripts are submitted to the plagiarism checking system, which compares the content of the manuscript with vast database of web pages and academic publications. Manuscripts judged to be plagiarised or self-plagiarised, based on any source of information, will not be considered for publication.

Submission

A manuscript prepared following the directions given in this text has to be submitted online to the Editorial Office at: zemdirbyste-agriculture@lzi.lt. After a positive initial evaluation, submissions are anonymously peer-reviewed by at least two reviewers. The Editorial Board make the final decision to accept or reject the manuscript for publication.

Manuscript preparation

Manuscripts should be written in English. Authors are responsible for submitting well-written manuscripts. Manuscript should be written in simple declarative sentences. English spelling and grammar should follow standard British English usage. Authors are strongly advised to have papers reviewed linguistically prior to submission.

Authors should consult papers in recent issue of this journal for details of manuscript style and formatting that are not given below.

Only native speakers of Lithuanian should provide a **summary in Lithuanian**.

Manuscripts should not exceed a final length of **10 pages**, including tables and figures. Tables and figures should be included in the text. Manuscripts should be typed using **Microsoft Office Word** text editor **Times New Roman, font 12**. Format A4 (210 × 297 mm), spacing – single (1), alignment – justify. Width of margins: left, top and bottom 2.0 cm, right 1.0 cm. Pages and lines should be numbered.

Submission of revised articles

When revision is requested, authors should revise their articles carefully and resubmit a revised version to the Editorial Office together with a letter outlining a point-by-point response to reviewers or editors comments and detailing the changes made to the article. Authors need to return revised article within 30 days after first revision and within 15 days after second revision. Authors are asked to take care that they have prepared the revised version according to the style of the journal.

Structure and scope

The text of the manuscript and its constituent parts should be arranged as follows: title section, abstract, key words, introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion, conclusion(s), acknowledgements (optional) and references.

Title section: should contain informative title of the manuscript (if possible, abbreviations should be avoided), not exceeding 15 words, first name and surname of the authors, the name of institution, its address, corresponding author's e-mail address.

Abstract: should state the purpose of the research, the main methods and results and should not exceed 300 words. It should not contain references.

Key words: maximum 6 words, in alphabetical order, separated by comas. If possible, avoid abbreviations. Words from the title should not be used.

Introduction: background and significance of the problem by using the most recent publications should be provided. The aim of the study should be clearly stated at the end of introduction.

Materials and methods: authors should provide a concise description of experimental site, design, materials and analytical methods and statistical procedures used. This part should be as clear as possible to enable other scientists to repeat the research presented.

Results: this section can be divided into subsections. The numbers from the tables or figures should not be repeated extensively in the text and long explanations of the tables and figures are not acceptable. The same information given in the table should not be repeated in the figure or vice versa. **Relevant statistical information should be provided in tables and figures. Statistical significance should be clearly indicated where applicable.**

Discussion: interpretation of data, related to previous research, should be presented. Results and discussion sections may be combined.

Conclusion(s): main significant results of the study should be presented in a clear and concise way and should be numbered.

Acknowledgements (optional): acknowledgements of funds, grants, etc. may be placed.

References: the number of references should not exceed 30 (except for review articles). The list should include more recent items (preferably not older than 10 years) – peer-reviewed scientific articles, scientific books and monographs and other scientific publications, except for textbooks, manuals or training materials. References to abstracts or proceedings are acceptable only in exceptional cases.

All publications cited in the text should be presented in a list of references. In the text, references should be cited by author and year of publication, for example, Gaile (2012), Velykis, Satkus (2012). If reference is made in the text to a publication written by more than two authors the name of the first author should be used followed by "et al." (Makūnas et al., 2011). References cited together in the text should be arranged chronologically.

The list of references should be arranged alphabetically by authors' names, and chronologically per author. Publications by the same author(s) in the same year should be listed as 2012 a, 2012 b, etc. All authors of each publication should be included into the reference list. Titles of scientific journals, conference proceedings etc. should not be abbreviated.

Priority should be given to references in English. In the case of articles in any other language, the original title is to be translated into English and the original language should be indicated in parenthesis (e.g., in Lithuanian, in German, in French, etc.).

Examples of references

For journals:

Masilionytė L., Maikštėnienė S. 2010. The influence of various organic fertilizers and catch crops on the balance of biogenic elements in the agrosystems. *Zemdirbyste-Agriculture*, 97 (2): 41–52

Bodner G., Himmelbauer M., Loiskandl W., Kaul H. P. 2010. Improved evaluation of cover crop species by growth and root factors. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development*, 30 (2): 455–464

For books:

Agrios G. N. 2005. *Plant pathology* (5th ed.)

Lietuvos žemės našumas. 2011 [The productivity of Lithuanian lands] / compiled by Mažvila J. Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, 280 p. (in Lithuanian)

For book chapters:

Petraitiienė E., Brazauskienė I., Vaitelytė B. 2011. The effect of insecticides on pest control and productivity of winter and spring oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L.). Perveen F. (ed.). *Insecticides*, p. 343–366

For proceedings:

Kheyrodin H., Antoun H. 2008. Tillage manure effect on soil microbial biomass and respiration and on enzyme activities. 5th International Symposium ISMOM. Pucón, Chile, Session 4, p. 16

For on-line documents:

Weightman R., Kindred D. 2005. Review and analysis of breeding and regulation of hemp and flax varieties available for growing in the UK: final report for the Department for Environment Food and Rural affairs. <<http://www.grfa.org.uk>> [accessed 28 01 2010]

For thesis or dissertation:

Twengström E. 1999. Epidemiology and forecasting of Sclerotinia stem rot on spring oilseed rape in Sweden: doctoral thesis, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Uppsala, Sweden

Text

Title of the article and headings (**Abstract**, **Introduction**, **Materials and methods**, **Results and discussion**, **Conclusion(s)**, **References**) should be written in Bold.

Dimensions and nomenclature

All physical units, their names and symbols should meet the requirements of **SI system** (Système International di Unités). Soil texture and systematic symbol should be indicated according to **FAO**, e.g., *Eutri-Epihypogleyic Cambisol (CMg-p-w-eu)*.

Latin names of plant species, genus, pests, micro-organisms also causal agents of diseases should be written with taxon name, in Italic, e.g., *Triticum aestivum* (L.), *Blumeria graminis* (DC.) Speer. The terms and names of plants, biology, entomology, phytopathology, pesticides, agrochemistry and soil must meet the most recent requirements of their international nomenclature, names and spelling.

Tables

The position of tables should be vertical only (Portrait). Large tables should be avoided. If many data are to be presented, an attempt should be made to divide them over two or more tables. The preferred format for tables is MS Word. Tables should be numbered according to their sequence in the text in Bold and Italic, e.g., **Table 1**. Each table should have a brief and self-explanatory title. Column headings should be brief, but sufficiently explanatory. Any explanation essential to the understanding of the table should be given as a footnote at the bottom of the table. The columns and rows in the tables should not be separated either by horizontal or vertical lines. Only horizontal lines should be used to separate column headings and the end of the table.

Figures

All illustrative material – drawings, graphs, diagrams, photos, pictures, etc. are called by a common name of figures, e.g., **Figure 1**. Figures are published only in black and white. Coloured photos will be represented only in the online version and black and white ones in the paper version. To maintain clear contrast, use line patterns instead of shading and avoid thin, light lines. Graphs should be done using **Microsoft Office Excel** and provided by a separate **Excel** file. If figures are produced not in **Excel**, they should be in separate graphic .jpg or .tiff format files (in a resolution of at least 300 dpi). Times New Roman, font size 12 should be used in figures (there should be no Bold, no frames around pictures).

Figure legends should be concise and should give enough information to make the figure understandable. All symbols reported in the figure must be defined and all abbreviations should be explained.

Statistical data

The data provided in the tables and figures **should be statistically processed**.