

Oat Newsletter Guidelines, August, 2024

I. Oat Newsletter Content and Structure

Background:

The original purpose of the (National) Oat Newsletter was to supplement American Uniform Nursery reports by publishing short articles from oat research stations, as well as meeting information, news concerning individual members of the community, and so on. All back issues of the Oat Newsletter are archived on the Oat Newsletter website.

Primary content:

The Oat Newsletter website will continue its previous role of accepting short, self-contained reports on topics such as basic research, field trial results, variety releases, nomenclature, etc.. Henceforth, this primary content will be published, as received, in a dynamically expanding yearly volume, on a best-effort basis. Articles submitted as primary content will be subject to editorial review (see Section II).

Authors may contribute reports based on conference presentations, as long as they are deemed to be self-contained and self-explanatory. Summaries of papers published in refereed journals will also be accepted, but the text must be original and not copied from text published elsewhere.

Reports may take various formats at the discretion of the editor, but, in most cases, should follow the basic style of reports already published in the newsletter. Reports will normally be converted to PDF or HTML for posting. Reports will be citable, as outlined in Section III below.

Conference proceedings:

Prior to 2014, meeting and conference information and proceedings were included as reports in the newsletter, as printed books, or as part of stand-alone websites dedicated to specific conferences. The new site will now contain a specific section that links to proceedings and content from past AOWC conferences (where possible), as well as to those of any other oat-related conference that wishes to be represented on the newsletter site (e.g., IOC). How to cite these conference proceedings is clarified below.

Supplementary content:

The Oat Newsletter site will also host a variety of additional supplementary content. This will include community news, photo galleries, etc.. Although this content may be cited (see guidelines), users should use judgement in making these references, as some items and their URLs may be transitory.

Supplementary content will be added at the discretion of the Editor, who will consult with the Committee as needed. The newsletter portal may, in future, allow direct submissions from users (e.g., commentary, announcements, etc., subject to user registration and moderation.

URL and hierarchical continuity:

The committee will maintain indefinitely the Internet domain name “oatnews.org”, such that static references to [http://oatnews.org/...](http://oatnews.org/) on the Internet or in literature will be preserved. This domain will redirect to the physical URL of the oat newsletter (currently on a USDA GrainGenes server). Primary content from 2014 forward will be arranged under website hierarchy “Newsletter Reports/Year/Report number” and URL hierarchy <http://oatnews.org/reports/year/number.extension>. Content prior to 2014 is not numbered, but will be maintained in a consistent archival hierarchy that is easily found from the recommended citation format.

II. Publication Policy and Instructions for Authors

Acceptance process for primary content:

Original research reports must be written clearly in English, and should be approved by a minimum of two associate editors selected by the Editor. The Editor may act as one of the two referees when articles fall within their area of expertise. The Editor may choose to make minor editorial suggestions to a report before or after review, and/or to request editorial suggestions from the reviewers. Editorial revisions will be conveyed back to the author prior to final acceptance.

The newsletter will strive to be a venue for rapid communication. However, if the Editor and/or reviewers deem it necessary, external reviews may be requested from experts in the greater oat community. Reasons for rejection of a report might include: inappropriate or inflammatory content, personal attacks, serious or obvious flaws in the research, conflicts of interest, etc.. While rejections are expected to be rare, the Editor would make it clear to the author that the rejection was a committee decision based on newsletter policy.

Commercial material:

It has always been the policy of the Oat Newsletter to reject reports that are deemed to represent commercial advertising. However, it is recognized that commercial entities can do much to contribute to oat research and that being aware of the development of new oat products can be useful to the community. Therefore, articles concerning information of this nature may be considered for inclusion in the newsletter if they are prepared in a scientific and objective manner, whether as primary content or otherwise. Blatant commercial advertising will continue to be rejected.

III. Citation policy

Citing primary newsletter content:

Historically, articles in the Oat Newsletter (formerly the National Oat Newsletter) were not to be cited; rather, the author of an article of interest was to be contacted directly. This policy was adopted because a) the newsletter was intended to be an informal publication and b) it was only available to a small group of people and not held by any libraries. That situation has changed and citations are now allowed, but, when possible, the author of an article in the Oat Newsletter should still be contacted before the article is cited.

Citation formats below are based on those used in the APA style guide, as outlined here: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines>. Please note that the instructions below are only guidelines. Specific journals and other avenues of publication may have their own preferred citation formats.

- 1) Volumes 1-43 of the newsletter are now available on the Oat Newsletter website as pdf documents, and articles should be cited as in the following example:

Brown, C.M. and Jedlinski, H. (1961) Inheritance of tolerance to Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus in oats. Oat Newsletter. **12**: 34. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from https://oatnews.org/oatnews_pdfs/Vol_12_1961.pdf

In-text citation: (Brown and Jedlinski, 1961)

- 2) Volumes 44-50 are self-contained web documents containing reports that are not consistently numbered or paginated, and should be cited as in the following example:

Chong, J. (1999) Oat Crown Rust in Canada in 1998. Oat Newsletter. **45**. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://wheat.pw.usda.gov/ggpages/oatnewsletter/v45/#Chong>

In-text citation: (Chong, 1999)

- 3) Reports contained within the current, dynamic version of the Oat Newsletter (Volume 51 on) should be cited as follows:

Prats, E., Sánchez-Martín, J., Montilla-Bascón, G., Rubiales, D., and Risipail, D. (2014, September 30) Overview and Prospects of the Oat Crop in Spain. Oat Newsletter (oatnews.org). 51:9. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from https://oatnews.org/oatnews_pdfs/2014/oatnews_2014_Prats.pdf

In-text citation: (Prats, *et al.*, 2014)

Citing conference proceedings and other, supplementary newsletter content:

It is not recommended that supplementary content be cited in a scientific article; however, there may be occasions when citing such content is appropriate.

- 1) If contained directly within an issue of the Oat Newsletter, we suggest that conference proceedings be cited in the same manner as primary content, with the addition of the phrase "Paper presented at (*conference name in italics*), (location of the conference)", as in the following example:

Phillips, T.D. and Murphy, J.P. (1990) Representation of Genetic Variation in the National Small Grains Collection of *Avena sterilis* L.. Paper presented at the *American Oat Workers Conference*, Jackson Hole, WY, USA. Oat Newsletter. **41**: 25. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from https://oatnews.org/oatnews_pdfs/Vol_41_1990.pdf

In-text citation: (Phillips and Murphy, 1990)

- 2) If conference proceedings are contained within a book or on an external website, then those sources should be cited directly.
- 3) Other supplementary and weblog-type content from the Oat Newsletter should be cited as in the example below:

Wight, C.P. (2014, September 21) Oat Stem unveiled in Ituna [weblog post]. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from https://oatnews.org/oatnews_pdfs/oatcmtty/community2014Sep_OatStem.pdf

In-text citation: (Wight, 2014)

Any questions concerning information contained within the Oat Newsletter should be directed to the Editor (oatnewsletter@gmail.com).