

Writing the paper



Writing Style

- Shorter sentences are better
- Write concisely
- Quality not quantity

Editors will drastically prune unnecessary words and phrases
Don't annoy editors and referees

Construction

1. The sentence

A sentence should have a subject, a verb and an object.

2. The paragraph

A paragraph has an opening sentence that introduces the topic of the paragraph. The middle sentences report the topic. The final sentence gives the conclusion (and may also introduce the next topic).

No verb:

Shrubby species with erect stems, decumbent plants up to 1 m high; scarious leaf sheath, at least of young shoots, 1-2 mm long, as long as the diameter of the subtended stem and longer than leaf rudiments.

Sentences that are too long:

In fact potato competitive ability was not correlated with the precocity of emergence of the potato cultivars not even with the total biomass in the early stages (20, 30 and 40 DAE), in our study crop competitive ability was correlated mainly with the above-ground biomass in the second and third early harvest (30 and 40 DAE) and at final harvest, with the plant canopy development and with the maintenance of a closed canopy for a longer period.

However, efficacy might be limited due to the high amount of seeds in infected agricultural soils and the moderate levels of germination induced only near of each root and the lack of continuity of the potential trap crop cultivation in the same area.

Grammar and punctuation



- Modifiers

- It should be clear what an adjective (i.e. modifier) is modifying

On the basis of (not *based on*) their previous findings, the authors developed a new set of treatments

- Modifiers should be placed as close to the words they modify – *different implied emphasis*

Only the herbicides were effective against 10 species
The herbicides were *only* effective against 10 species
The herbicides were effective against *only* 10 species

Grammar and punctuation

- Anthropomorphism

- an interpretation of what is not human or personal in terms of human or personal characteristics

The birds interpreted the pest outbreak as due to....

The bird behaviour was indicative of a positive response to the pest outbreak

Grammar and punctuation

- Which and That
 - ‘That’ introduces essential information
 - Phrases that begin with ‘Which’ give additional less essential information and are usually set off by commas.

The results that were obtained after 24 weeks depicted all the fungal disease symptoms

The results, which were obtained after 24 weeks, were not always conclusive

Grammar and punctuation

- Check the journal for grammar by reading some papers

US english not the same as English english



Poor sense

- This will benefit precision agriculture as herbicides are targeted weed plant specifically.
- Updated knowledge of the dose-response relation provides praxis ways of reducing their herbicide use for volunteer potato control.
- The relationship between individual potato plants and glyphosate has been described for the Asterix potato cultivar.
- Ephedraceae family consist shrubs, sub-shrubs or herbaceous species varied in their growth forms, habit and habitats.

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Wile-Blackwell author services

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If you are not a native English speaker, we strongly recommend that you have your manuscript professionally edited before submission. Professional editing will mean that reviewers are better able to read and assess your manuscript. English-language editing will:

Improve grammar, spelling, and punctuation
Improve clarity and resolve ambiguity
Ensure that the tone of the language is appropriate for an academic journal

Professional editing services

Sees-editing Ltd

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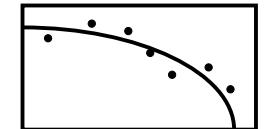
Data and statistics

- Don't refer to every data point
- If values are not significantly different don't contrast the values and then say they are not significantly different
- All you can say is they are the same
- Sometimes 'no difference' is an important result

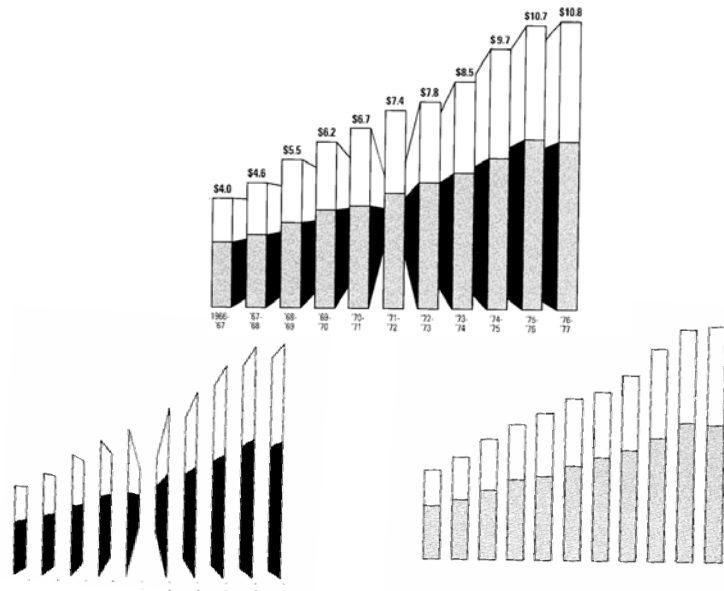
Tables and Figures

- Don't present all your results - select
- Don't present the same results in a table AND a figure
- Decide on when to use a table and when to use a figure

Figures



- Make sure the axes, points, lines, legends will be legible when reduced for printing
- Generally keep it simple
- Prepare diagrams in B&W not colour
- Use solid, dotted and dashed lines, open and filled symbols
- Do not use 3-D columns and use shadowing



Tufte, 1983

TTTTFF

- Despite MS Excel, published Figures have the legend at the **bottom**
- Remember TTTTTF to position the title
- Tables have Titles at the Top, Figures at the Foot
- Include error bars
State whether SD SED SEM LSD etc
- Check journal conventions

Data values

- Three sig figs max – often 2 will do. (e.g. 2.34 t/ha not 2345.6 kg/ha)
- Spurious accuracy
- Give statistical data (SE, SED etc) to one additional place.
- Observe journal conventions.

Indicate significance

Observe journal conventions

- Give P value
- use stars to indicate probability.
- use SE, SD, SEM, SED, LSD as per journal usage.
- Use of a,b,c to indicate differences?
- Multiple range tests not always appropriate

Take care with %

- Generally only use % for a response (e.g. yield was 12 % higher ...)
- Express proportion on a 0-1 scale
- for an amount give a unit of quantity (e.g. mg/g rather than %)
- Take care with % of a % (the % increase was 10% bigger).

Check Tables and Figures

- Check all tables and figures are referred to in the text
- Ensure Tables and Figures are numbered in the order they are referred to in the text

Assemble tables and figures

- Usually assemble Tables and Figures in order at the end of your submission
- Put each Table and Figure on a separate page
- Put figure captions on a separate page