INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS
Failure to comply with the Instructions to Authors may delay publication

Papers intended for publication should be submitted to Dr G. D. H. Bell, C.B.E., F.R.S., Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge, CB2 2LQ or to one of the Associate Editors. It must be understood that, if accepted by the Editorial Board, the paper will not be published elsewhere in the same form.

MANUSCRIPTS. Papers, written in English, are accepted from any country and should be typed in double-spacing on one side of the paper with a margin at least 4 cm wide on the left-hand side. Authors should instruct typists on the style required. A top copy and one carbon copy should be submitted.

SHORT NOTES may be accepted provided they are based on adequate experimental evidence; special provision is made for their publication with the least possible delay. MSS should not exceed 1500 words in length or their equivalent. For tabulated matter allow 25 words per line of the table (including headings). For line illustrations allow 225 words per quarter of a page.

TABLES must be self-explanatory. They should be typed on separate sheets, numbered consecutively and carry an appropriate title. When possible, tables should be arranged so that they can be printed in the normal orientation of the text and without rules.

LINE DRAWINGS (with photocopies) should be 25 cm wide and drawn in black waterproof ink on Bristol board, graph paper with blue lines or tracing paper. Legends should be typed on a separate copy and numbering inserted lightly and clearly in soft pencil on the drawing. Tables and figures should not reproduce the same data.

The approximate position of tables and figures should be noted in the text.

PLATES should make a definite contribution to the value of the paper and the number submitted should be kept to a minimum. They should be good quality, unmounted, glossy prints and be lightly numbered in pencil on the reverse side. If several, or coloured, plates are submitted the author may be asked to contribute to the cost of reproducing them.

TITLE. The title must be specific and suitable for indexing by the mechanical methods now being employed. The full name and address of the institution in which the research has been carried out should be stated. Change of address may be given as a footnote. A short title, not exceeding 50 characters, should be provided for the running headlines.

STYLE. Experimental details and results should be recorded in the past tense and there should be no unnecessary repetition or loose phrases. Manuscripts are likely to be returned for modification if the presentation is not clear and precise.

LAYOUT. Authors are recommended to study ‘General Notes on the Preparation of Scientific Papers’ (Royal Society, London, 2nd edn, 1965). The Editorial Board do not insist on a rigid format but it is usually convenient to divide the paper into sections, e.g. Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion. An excess of headings and subheadings should be avoided.

Authors are advised to note the following points: a detailed review of literature is not necessary; relevant details should be given of the plant or animal material, the experimental design and chemical or other techniques employed; mean results with their relevant standard errors should be presented rather than detailed data; the statistical methods used should be clearly stated; the discussion should relate the author’s experiments to other work on the subject and give the author’s conclusions. Footnotes should be avoided.

SUMMARIES of papers are placed at the beginning of the text and authors should submit MSS with the summaries so placed. The summary should be factual and suitable for use in abstracting journals; paragraphs should not be numbered.

REFERENCES. The bibliography must be given in the form—Surname of authors, initials, year of publication (in parentheses), title of paper, name of journal (abbreviated according to the World List of Scientific Periodicals, 4th edn, Butterworths, London), volume and pages of reference. References should be in alphabetical order. In the text a reference should be quoted by the author’s name and date (in parentheses). Where there are more than two authors, the initial reference in the text should include the names of all authors, but subsequent citations should be in the form—first author followed by et al. Authors should check that all references in the text appear at the end of the paper and vice versa, and that names and dates correspond in the two places.

PROOF CORRECTION. Standard proof correction marks (British Standard 1219) should be made as legibly as possible in ink, not pencil. Directions to the printer which are not to be set up in type should be encircled. Captions to illustrations and all references should be checked. Queries marked by the printer should be answered. Proofs are provided in order that authors can check the correctness of the type-setting—excessive alterations may be charged to the author.

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