



Sharing Plant Production Knowledge Globally



Southern Region  
of North America

July 1, 2025

Dear Students,

The following guideline is to be used for submitting your paper to the **Charles' Student Research Competition**. Student research papers are later published in the society's combined annual proceedings – *The International Plant Production Society Combined Proceedings*. Since all papers are now published digitally, you should only follow this current IPPS-SR Student Paper Guideline.

The subject matter of the research papers includes **ALL aspects** of the green industry/ nursery production - and not solely plant propagation.

The instructions below are to ensure your manuscript conforms to the style used in the proceedings and are used as guidelines for submission to the Charles' Student Research Competition. **Please note the student competition manuscripts are limited to eight (8) pages of double-spaced text - not including tables and figures - and must be in English.**

For samples of previous student papers, use these two links:

[PDF of Vanesa Rostan's paper](#)

[PDF of Teagan Young's paper](#)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding formatting your initial paper submission for the Charles' Student Research Competition. I can also assist with your questions regarding preparation of the files needed by the IPPS-SR editor for publication in *The International Plant Production Society Combined Proceedings*.

The IPPS-SR is a great organization to help jump-start your career. We look forward to your participation in the competition!

Best regards,

Mack Thetford  
SR-IPPS Student Competition Chair

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## Preparation of the Charles' Student Research Competition Manuscripts

**1. Manuscripts are submitted to the Student Competition Chair, Dr. Mack Thetford,** as a single file in an editable electronic format. Most students use the program Word. Manuscript text shall be double-spaced, fonts no smaller than 12, with wide margins (2.5 cm on all sides), and all pages numbered in the footer of each page. Manuscripts are limited to eight pages – excluding tables and figures. Tables, figures, and figure legends should follow the literature cited – and must be editable for editors to modify as needed.

### **2. Title and Byline**

The title should be a precise and concise description of the paper contents. The byline includes the names(s) of the author(s) on one line and a complete mailing address(s) below. Title and byline should be flush left, not all caps and contain no italics. Scientific names in the title may be in italics as in the style sample below:

#### **Taming the Wild *Stewartia***

**Timothy M. Boland and Todd J. Rounsaville**

Polly Hill Arboretum, 809 State Road, West Tisbury, Massachusetts 02575, USA

tim@pollyhillarboretum.org

*Keywords:* Asexual propagation, native trees, plant collections, seeds, *Stewartia*

Text headings should be upper case and flush left. The following headings should be used:

- *keywords*
- **Summary**
- **INTRODUCTION**
- **MATERIALS AND METHODS**
- **RESULTS**
- **DISCUSSION** (or combine **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**)
- **CONCLUSIONS**
- **LITERATURE CITED**

The author may also develop additional headings and subheadings as appropriate (see the two sample manuscripts).

### **3. Literature Citations**

The Harvard system (author and date) of literature citation is used in the Proceedings. The placement of parentheses depends on sentence structure. For example:

One author: Jones (2020) or (Jones, 2020)

Two authors: Jones and Black (2019) or (Jones and Black, 2019)

Three or more authors: Jones et al. (2018) or (Jones et al., 2018)

Use semicolons to separate multiple references. List in alphabetical, not chronological order. For Example: (Black, 2018; Davies et al., 2018).

Literature cited should include only published and significant works accessible through a library or information system. Journal titles need to be abbreviated. A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is not required but it may be included at the end of these citation formats.

Examples of literature citations are provided below:

*Periodical.* Bowland, T.M. and Rounsaville, T.J. 2019. Taming the wild *Stewartia*. Comb. Proc. Intl. Plant Prop. Soc. 69: 222-228.

*Book.* Davies, F.T., Geneve, R.L., and Wilson, S.B. 2018. Hartmann and Kester's Plant Propagation: Principles and Practices. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson, N.Y., N.Y.

*Book Chapter.* Brown, A.G. 1975. Apples, p.3-37. In Janick, J. and Moore, J.N. (eds). Advances in fruit breeding. Purdue Univ. Press, West Lafayette, Ind.

*Abstract.* Nesmith, W.C. and Dowler, W.M. 1973. Cold hardiness of peach trees as affected by certain cultural practices. HortScience 8:267. (Abstr.)

*Bulletin.* Rollins, H.A., Howlett, F.S., and Emmert, E.H. 1962. Factors affecting apple hardiness and methods of measuring resistance of tissue to a low temperature injury. Ohio Agr. Expt. Sta. Res. Bul. 901.

*Digital Object Identifier.* Include in the format of an active link. Pre-2011, DOIs started with the number 10 (and some are still formatted this way). You can turn any DOI into a URL by adding <http://dx.doi.org/> before the DOI. For example, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3352/jeehp.2013.10.3>

#### 4. Tables

Tables should document, but not duplicate, data already given in the text. Data presented in the form of tables should be arranged as follows:

**Table 1.** Effect of indolebutyric acid concentration on rooting of *Hibiscus* cuttings.

IBA Concentration	Cuttings rooted <sup>a</sup> (%)	Mean root length (cm)	Mean roots per cutting (no.)
4000	75	4.5	10
3000	60	4.5	8
2000	40	4.0	8
1000	30	4.0	3
0	10	2.0	2

<sup>a</sup>Each mean represents the proportion (%) of 50 cuttings per treatment (n=50); mean root length and mean roots per cutting are based only on rooted cuttings.

## 5. Figures and Photographs

Figures and photographs should have complete captions/legends just below each figure or photo in the form of the following sample:

**Figure 1.** The effect of IBA and/or NAA on the rooting of *Raphiolepis indica* 'Jack Evans' stem cuttings.

As previously stated, tables, figures, and figure legends are submitted in an editable format so the editors may make minor adjustments in preparation of the galley proof.

## 6. Scientific names

Great care should be used with plant names to ensure that the correct, presently accepted name is stated. All cultivar names are enclosed by single quotes. All plants mentioned should be identified by their scientific name, for example:

Upright European hornbeam; *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata'

## 7. Galley proofs.

Prior to publication in the *IPPS Combined Proceedings*, the IPPS-SR editor, Dr. Fred Davies, will send a digital proof to the first author for review; *this is why your correct email address is important*. This will be your final chance to review the submission and approve the proof for publication.