

IPPS Southern Region
The Charles' Student Research Competition
TITLES DUE 15 AUGUST
PAPERS DUE 1 SEPTEMBER



About: “The Charles’ Student Research Competition” has been named in honor of late Dr. Charles Gilliam, former Professor of Horticulture at Auburn University, and Mr. Charlie Parkerson, SRNA founder, 1st President, and staunch student advocate.

Celebrating Excellence in Research: This competition provides students with a unique opportunity to showcase their research while connecting with some of the most respected green industry professionals and faculty in the Southern United States. The [IPPS Southern Region](#) invites four students annually to present their paper and compete in the oral competition for first (\$1,000), second (\$500), third (\$250), and fourth place (\$200) awards designed to recognize outstanding, original research focused on horticultural crop production. Students are encouraged to also present a poster, although optional. In addition, student awardees receive \$500 to help cover travel expenses, and their registration is waived. Additionally, up to four students are selected to present their paper in a poster format. These students will also receive \$500 and a registration waiver.

Dear Students,

The following guidelines are 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 and nursery production, 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 and fully editable.**

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

[PDF of Vanesa Rostan’s paper](#)

[PDF of Sisi Chen’s paper](#)

Please feel free to contact Dr. Sandy Wilson (sbwilson@ufl.edu) if you have any questions regarding formatting your initial paper submission for the Charles’ Student Research Competition. We can also assist with questions regarding the 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, Sandra B. Wilson (Chair) and Kristopher Criscione (Co-Chair), IPPS-SR Student Competition

Preparation of the Charles' Student Research Competition Manuscripts

1. **Manuscripts are submitted to the Student Competition Chair, Dr. Sandy Wilson**, 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's contents. The byline includes the names(s) of the author(s) on one line and a complete mailing address(s) below. If applicable, use numbered footnotes to indicate different mailing addresses of authors. 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 bold 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. Subheadings should be in bold font, flush to the left with only the first letter of each word uppercase. Additional paragraphs that follow may be indented.

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 (2026) or (Jones and Black, 2026)

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, 2024; Davies et al., 2018; Jones, 2020).

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:

Refereed manuscript. LeBude, A.V., Fulcher, A., Altland, J.E., Velandia, M., Turner, Z., Rihn, A., Warner, L., Hu, D., Bumgarner, N., Marble, C., and Shreckhise, J.H. (2026). Current labor challenges and opportunities in nursery crops production. *HortTechnol.* 36(2):240-244. <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH05753-25>.

Proceeding. Robbins, J. and Maja, J.M. (2025). Drones in nursery production. *Comb. Proc. Intl. Plant Prod. Soc.* 75: 257-260. https://ipps.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/67_75.pdf.

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

Book Chapter. 2021. Light, p. 71-84. In Nau, J., Calkins, and Westbrook, A. (eds). *Ball RedBook Crop Culture and Production*. 19th ed. Ball Publishing, West Chicago, IL.

Abstract. Yue, Y., Chen, Z., and Zhang, D. Three new crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) cultivars for the southern landscape. *HortScience* 60:254. (Abstr.)

Digital Object Identifier. Include in the format of an active link if available.

4. Tables

Tables should appear after the 8 pages of text and should document, but not duplicate, data already provided in the paper. Footnotes may be superscripted with letters. Data presented in the form of tables should be arranged as follows:

Table 1. The effect of indole butyric acid concentration on rooting of *Hibiscus* cuttings.

IBA concentration (mg/L)	Cuttings rooted ^a (%)	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

^aEach 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 appear after Tables and have complete captions/legends just below each figure or image in the form of the following sample:

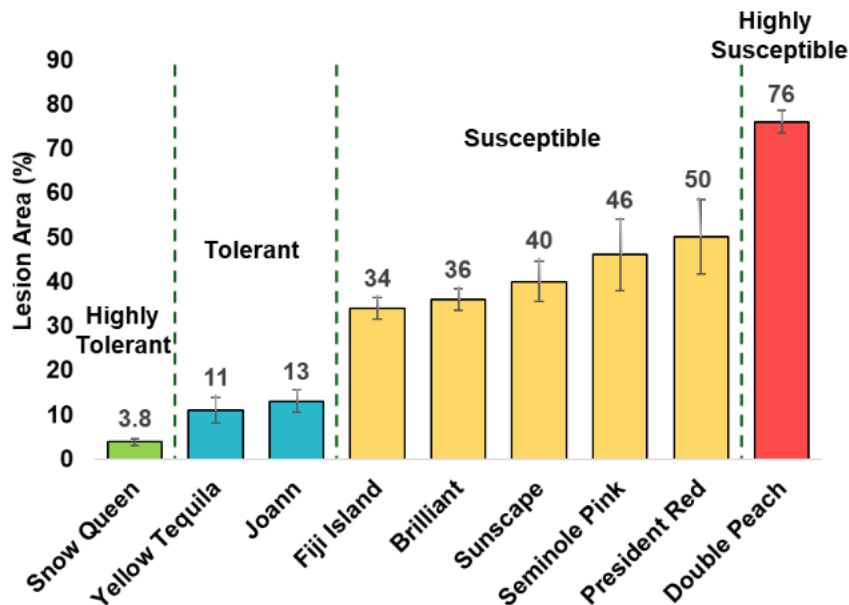


Figure 1. Differential host responses of nine tropical hibiscus cultivars to bacterial leaf spot as reported by the percentage of lesion area on the foliage.

The tables, figures, and figure legends must be 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 common and scientific name, for example:

Upright European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata')

7. Galley proofs

Student competition papers will be forwarded from the Student Competition Chair to the IPPS-SR editor, Dr. Fred Davies. Before publication in the *IPPS Combined Proceedings*, Dr. Fred Davies will send a digital proof to the first author as a final chance to review and approve for publication.