The title should be in sentence case, 14pt: do not use abbreviations

A. B. Surname1, C. D. Surname1, E. F. Surname2 and G. H. Surname3\*

1Affiliations must be indicated after each name using superscript numbers, if the authors belong to different institutions. You must make sure that the author lists here and on ScholarOne match exactly.

2Affiliations should be written below the author names in italics and the superscript number, if applicable, should appear (not in italics) at the beginning of each different affiliation

3Each affiliation should begin on a new line. The corresponding author must be denoted by an asterisk and the following should be added:

\* **Author for correspondence:** G. H. Surname, E**-**mail: xxxxx@xxxx

# Abstract

Please set your language to English (UK), but please note that we use the Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors for spelling, which stipulates that words ending in –ise should be spelled –ize, such as fertilize, fertilizer, minimize, hypothesize, etc. The Abstract should not appear in the title page file, only in the file with the Introduction, Results, etc. First level headings should be in sentence case, left-aligned and bold: you can use Heading 1 in this template. Note that headings must NOT be numbered. Text should be fully justified, not left-aligned, and double-spaced throughout. You must include continuous line numbering in your main document. The Abstract should be a short description of the work, with the main findings, and must not be longer than 250 words. Abbreviations should be kept to a minimum and must be explained at first mention. You should not begin a sentence with an abbreviation and they should not be used in headings. *P* values should not be included in the Abstract. The Abstract should not be written in italics.

**Key words:** List of key words, separated by commas, as given on Scholar One. Please do not use words that are already in the title

# Introduction

This should be the next section and may be several paragraphs long. Note that in each section or sub-section the first line should NOT be indented but the first line of subsequent paragraphs within that section or sub-section SHOULD (see next paragraph). No blank lines should be left between paragraphs within a section, but one blank line should be left between the end of one section/subsection and the heading of the next. Headings must not be numbered.

This section should give the background to the work, your reasons for undertaking it and the objectives of the current paper.

This section will normally include several references: all references must be cited in the text with the surname of the authors and the date. Where there are 2 authors, both surnames must appear: Surname1 and Surname2. Where there are 3 or more authors, cite as Surname1 *et al*.

Use of brackets depends on the context, for instance ‘Surname1 and Surname2 (year) used…’ or ‘according to previous papers (Surname1 *et al*., year)’. Where several references are cited together, they should be arranged in chronological order first, and then if necessary in alphabetical order according to the first author. Where you have two or more references with the same author(s) and year of publication, they should be designated as *a*, *b*, *c*, etc. Each reference should be separated from the next by a semi-colon, but if you have two citations for the same authors at the same place, cite the authors only once and list both/all publication dates separated by a comma: (FirstRef1 *et al*., 1995; SecondRef1 and SecondRef2, 2001; ThirdRef1 *et al*., 2001, 2012; FourthRef1 *et al*., 2004*a*, *b*).

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# Materials and methods

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For crops papers, please provide the latitude, longitude and altitude of the experimental site. Latitude and Longitude should be given in degrees and minutes (seconds are not required), not decimal coordinates, and altitude in metres above sea level, written as ‘xx m asl’: (aa°bbʹ N, xx°yyʹ E, xxx m a.s.l.).

All papers must be written in the third person, e.g. ‘it was found that’, not ‘we found’. You must not use ‘this/our paper/study/work’, etc. when referring to your work; use ‘the current paper/work/study/research’ instead, throughout the whole paper. The Summary, Materials and Methods, and Results sections should also generally be in the past tense.

We do not use -1 for ‘per’, and we use a lower-case l for litre, not upper case. So, for example we would NOT write 20 mgL-1 but 20 mg/l, and mg/kg not mg kg-1. Similarly, ‘per square metre’ would be written as /m2, not m-2

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For crops papers, you must cite specific codes from recognized international codes for growth stages (GS) where applicable, e.g.

**Zadoks JC, Chang TT and Konzak CF** (1974) A decimal code for the growth stages of cereals. *Weed Research* **14**, 415-421.

**Lancashire PD, Bleiholder H, Van Den Boom T, Langelüddeke P, Stauss R, Weber E and Witzenberger A** (1991)A uniform decimal code for growth stages of crops and weeds. *Annals of Applied Biology* **119**, 561-601.

**BBCH (Biologische Bundesanstallt für Land-und Forstwirtschaft)** (1997) *Growth Stages of Mono-and Dicotyledonous Plants: BBCH Monograph*. Berlin, Germany: Blackwell Wissenschafts-Verlag.

**Meier U** (2001) *Growth Stages of Mono-and Dicotyledonous Plants: BBCH Monograph*. 2nd Ed. Bonn, Germany: Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry.

# Results

The Results MUST be in a separate section from the Discussion. Failure to present them in separate sections will result in your paper being ‘unsubmitted’ and returned to you for the combined section to be separated. If you have a specific reason for writing a combined section, you must make a case for this in your covering letter and it will be discussed with the relevant Editor-in-Chief.

Rather than using a blanket statement at the end of the Materials and Methods section, *P* values should be cited at the appropriate places in the Results, i.e. wherever mention is made of significant results. Please note that we use *P*, not p, P or *p*. Likewise, R2 should be written as *R*2 and r as *r*. For Crops & Soils papers, please use *P* levels of <0.001, <0.01 and < 0.05. For Animals papers, exact *P* values should be quoted, to three decimal places, except for *P* < 0.001.

Results generally should not contain references.

# Discussion

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**Conclusion**

This should consist of three or four sentences at the most.

**Supplementary Material**

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**Acknowledgements**

This section is optional: if you wish to credit, e.g. people who helped with the work but are not included in the list of authors, for instance statisticians or technicians, they should be listed in the acknowledgements section.

# Authorship

This section is required. A short statement should be provided indicating how each author contributed to the work. For example: AB and CD conceived and designed the study. CD and EF conducted data gathering. GH performed statistical analyses. AB, EF and GH wrote the article.

# Financial Support

This section is required, but if you received no funding or other financial support for the work, please write: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

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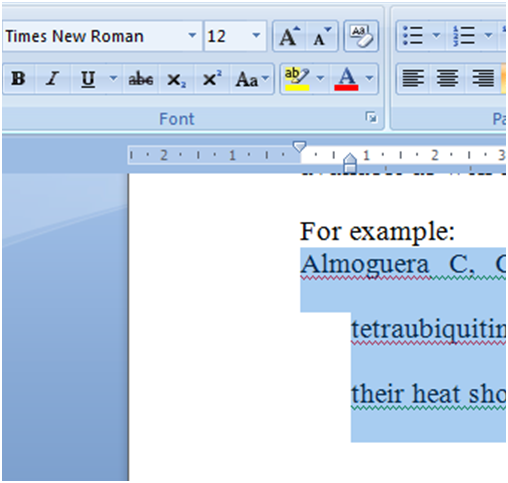
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# References

The reference list should be formatted using a hanging indent (as this paragraph is) and no blank lines should be left between references. It must be in alphabetical order by the surname of the first author.

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Volume and page numbers are separated by a comma and a space. The full page range is always given, i.e. write ‘675-680’ instead of ‘675-80’. The surname of the last author is preceded with ‘and’, there is no comma after the initials of the last two authors. Issue numbers are generally not used, other than in exceptional circumstances where it is otherwise difficult to locate an article (for example in publications where every issue starts at page 1). For extracts from books, please give Editor names if available as well as the place of publication and the publisher.

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All abbreviations must be explained in a footnote, including asterisks for *P* levels (\* *P* < 0.05, \*\* *P* < 0.01, \*\*\* *P* < 0.001). Any other footnotes required should be inserted using superscript numbers, in numerical order.

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Where you have ± in a table, you must state what the value after the ± is, for example SE. Similarly, you must explain what numbers in parentheses mean. This can be done either in the table title, or in a footnote.

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