

WSSA P1 PUBLICATIONS BOARD REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

Committee Code and Name: P1 Publications Board

Chair and WSSA Board Coordinator: Chris Willenborg, Sarah Ward (2026)

Other Committee Members:

Nathan Boyd	2025-S
Sharon Clay	2025-NC
Antonio DiTommaso, ex-off	2025-P4
Carl Libbey, ex-off	2025-P8
Jason Norsworthy, ex-off	2025-P3
Hilary Sandler	2025-NE
Sarah Ward (co-DP)	2026-W
William Vencill, ex-off	2025-P2

Financial Reports

Cambridge University Press has been invoiced (Dec. 14, 2024) for the following amounts for 2025 as per our contract:

Support for journal editor stipends: \$52,500

Sponsorship Fee (for support of Outstanding Paper awards): \$6,000

2025 Revenue Forecast from CUP

The forecast total income for WSSA journals in 2025 is **\$139,851** (\$143,273 in 2024), with forecast royalties to WSSA (39%) of **\$103,003** (\$99,273 in 2024). Guaranteed payment to WSSA (75% of forecast royalties excluding BioOne) for 2025 is **\$78,780** plus **\$6,000** award sponsorship fee and **\$52,500** editorial stipend support less the **\$20,000** hosting charge.

WSSA Newsletter

Carl Libbey continued to do an excellent job as Newsletter Editor in 2024, with quarterly issues published on time. The newsletter continues to receive timely information for members, and has started to publish short summaries of manuscripts submitted by members. Several large and timely reports on the work in Washington were submitted by Lee van Wychen, and several notices on the transition of the journals to open access were also included in this year's volume.

WSSA journals in 2024

2024 was the eighth year with Cambridge University Press (CUP) as our WSSA publishing partner. This has been a fantastic, positive partnership that has been excellent for our journals and our society. Over the course of 2024, we continued working with CUP editorial and production staff to update WSSA journals based on current publishing practices. This now includes inclusion of the journals in the Plan S process (initiative for open-access publishing and more transparent publishing/data procedures). As part of this, we engage in the Transformative Journals process, with a commitment to transitioning to open access. Weed Technology has been fully open access since January 2024, with no decline in the number of manuscripts submitted. Weed Science began the transition in late 2024 and is fully open access as of January 2025. Both Weed Technology and Weed Science have also switched to continuous

publication, with articles being published as soon as copyediting and formatting are complete, without waiting for assignment to a numbered journal issue. IPISM will complete the transition to OA and continuous publication and in early 2025.

WSSA journal metrics in 2024 (2023 figures in parentheses)

Clarivate Analytics impact factors released in 2024 (for the publication year 2023) showed a decline in impact factor for all WSSA journals, although only a very slight decline for Weed Science. Our journals remain well-positioned and highly regarded in all areas of weed science despite the competitive environment that exists in scientific publishing. We remain mindful of the fact that authors have more choice than ever when submitting manuscripts in the discipline of weed science, but the WSSA journals continue to offer high quality reviews in a timely manner.

Numbers of published articles increased compared to 2022 for Weed Science and IPISM and declined slightly for Weed Technology. The increase for IPISM and Weed Science reverses a decline in the number of published articles over the past couple of years. Submissions to Weed Science have now eclipsed those in 2019, before the pandemic.

Weed Science Manuscripts submitted: 227 (160)
Acceptance rate: 45% (47%)
Number accepted articles: 96 (71)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 43 days (47 days)
Impact factor 2.2 (2.5)
a. 36/126 Agronomy Journals
b. 88/265 Plant Sciences Journals

Weed Technology Manuscripts submitted: 189 (152)
Acceptance rate: 64% (60%)
Number accepted articles: 110
Mean time from submission to first decision: 47 days (50 days)
Impact factor: 1.3 (1.4)
a. 67/126 Agronomy Journals
b. 167/265 Plant Sciences Journals

IPISM Manuscripts submitted: 72 (60)
Acceptance rate: 52% (52%)
Number accepted articles: 36 (28)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 41 days (48 days)
Impact factor 1.3 (1.1)
a. 167/265 Plant Sciences Journals

Information Posted to WSSA Website:

Links to journal activity, press releases on the new featured journal article each issue, and WSSA Newsletters are posted on the WSSA website. Press releases are now sent, via email, to all society members to ensure membership is kept abreast important scientific findings. Press releases are also posted to our twitter page to provide greater visibility. Cambridge University Press also posts them, as well as a blog post.

Funds spent in 2024:

Editorial stipends: \$52,500

Outstanding Paper and Outstanding Reviewer awards: \$6,000
Payment to John Pocock for writing featured article press and blog releases: \$3,132.50
(\$6,000 budgeted).

Goals for 2025:

- * Complete the open access flip for IPSM
- * Continue to work towards publication of the Herbicide Handbook 11e
- * Continue to work towards increasing submissions and reducing time from submission to acceptance for each journal.

Board Actions: None at this time.

Sarah Ward, Chris Willenborg
Co-Directors of Publications
January 2025