The reviewing process

The reviewing process at Journal of Fruit and Ornamental Plant Res. has three stages. First, the Editor-in-Chief assigns the submitted manuscripts to selected Editorial Board member according to his/her research expertise. The assigned Board Member evaluates if the paper falls within the scope of the Journal and presents his/her opinion at the Editorial Board meeting. Basing on this opinion, the Board members may decide either to reject the paper or to send it to external experts for review. The final decision on acceptance is made by the Editor-in-Chief, considering the opinion of the reviewers. Hence, good reviews are essential for selection of high quality papers for publication in J. Fruit Ornam. Plant Res.

Tips for the reviewers

The review process in J. Fruit Ornam. Plant Res. is anonymous in that term that the authors are never informed of reviewer's identity. The review shall be clear, detailed, timely and shall reflect the unbiased opinion on the scientific quality of the contribution. In your review, you shall be impartial. If you cannot separate the evaluation process from your personal views or your support for a particular theory, or if you have a conflict of interest, then you should excuse yourself from reviewing. You are also expected to protect the confidentiality of the manuscript and ensure that it is not disseminated or exploited in any form prior to publication.

Please, consider the following specific suggestions in your review:

- Is the article clearly written and contains all the key elements: title, authors' names and affiliations, abstract, keywords, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion and references?
- Does the topic of the paper fall within the scope of the journal?
- Is the research well motivated?
- Are the methods adequate?
- Are the results original and well documented?
- Are the figures and tables informative?
- Are the conclusions substantiated by the data and provide new insight into the research and development in the subject area?
- Are the references accurate and representative for the subject area?

And finally, make the overall recommendation. You have several options:

<u>The manuscript can be accepted without changes.</u> This recommendation shall be used for manuscripts which are practically flawless and require only minor linguistic corrections.

<u>The manuscript can be accepted after minor revision</u>. Such recommendation means that, in your opinion, the manuscript is well prepared and requires only minor additions, deletions, or corrections.

The manuscript may be reconsidered after mayor revision. This recommendation means that, in your opinion, the manuscript in the form presented is not acceptable for publication, but the research is well motivated and the data presented promising. Thus, the authors are encouraged to resubmit the paper after proper corrections. Detailed comments to the authors are extremely important in support of this recommendation.

<u>The manuscript is not acceptable for publication.</u> This recommendation shall be used for papers which have uncorrectable defects, like the topic, which is of a minor importance to the field, improper methods used, empirical work weak or incorrect, or very poor writing. Comments to the authors should articulate only the most serious concerns, without going into details.