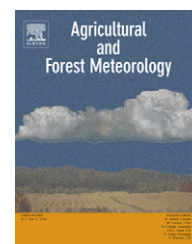


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Editorial

A note on the scope of the journal

Agricultural and Forest Meteorology is an international journal for the publication of original articles and reviews on the inter-relationship between meteorology and the fields of plant, animal and soil sciences, ecology, and biogeochemistry. Emphasis is on basic and applied scientific research on problems in agriculture, forestry, and natural ecosystems. Research that offers new insights into both meteorological and biological processes is welcomed. Articles must appeal to an international audience. Theoretical models should be tested against experimental data.

In recent years, the journal has seen a rapid increase in submission numbers. This growth trend is a healthy indicator of the journal and of the fields it represents. In an effort to expedite the review process, we have identified the following topical areas where our associate editors will prescreen papers prior to formal reviewing. We understand that authors of a submitted manuscript have invested substantial time and resources in it, and normally should be given the chance to benefit from detailed feedback from their peers via anonymous reviews. Occasionally, however, submissions may be deemed unsuitable for the journal and be returned without reviews. Decisions made from prescreening will help the authors determine, in a speedy manner, the most suitable venue for publishing their research.

Theoretical/modeling study: It is the policy of the journal that theoretical models should be tested against experimental data. Purely theoretical papers will be returned without review unless they are grounded on models that have been extensively tested in the past or have advanced provocative, falsifiable hypotheses that can guide future experimental design. In the matured field of soil-vegetation-atmosphere continuum modeling, publication of a new model is justifiable only if it shows significant improvement in predicted fluxes over existing models, or produces novel insights into biosphere-atmosphere interactions.

Modeling weather variables: We occasionally publish papers that deal with spatial modeling of weather variables, empirical relationships describing the dependence of one variable on others, and stochastic weather generators. In keeping with the scope of the journal, a new routine for weather variable computation should be applied to one or more biological problems, showing clear evidence that it is superior to published routines. Papers that lack the applied component are better suited for a more meteorological journal.

Eddy flux study: The journal is the primary venue for researchers at the forefront of eddy covariance study. High priority will be given to papers that investigate ecosystems that have not been adequately studied in the past, have made progress on micrometeorological instrumentation, or have revealed new insights into the processes underlying surface-air exchanges. Papers of limited scope, such as those that merely describe standard data protocol, may be returned without a formal review.

Greenhouse study: Manuscripts on this topic generally deal with engineering approaches to controlling microclimate in a greenhouse. Their results are relevant to the particular climate and greenhouse design under investigation but are difficult to apply elsewhere. Because of the lack of international value, submissions of this type are considered to fall outside the scope of the journal. Exceptions are those studies that use greenhouse data to test biophysical models, in an expanded parameter space that would otherwise be difficult to achieve in field experiments.

Editor-in-Chief
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