**VIEWPOINTS**

Viewpoints and Letters to the Editor are published in *HortScience* to provide members of the American Society for Horticultural Science an opportunity to share their experiences and comments on matters of concern to horticulturists. These are not statements of official Society policy nor do they necessarily reflect the views of a majority of the Society’s members.

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**Changes in *HortScience*: An Opportunity to Improve Communication**

Lincoln C. Peirce¹ and Fredrick A. Bliss²

*HortScience* will undergo some changes that the Publications Committee and the publications staff believe will increase interest and expand usefulness of this publication. The first of these changes—the reorganization of the currently combined *Reports & Notes* section into 2 separate sections—will begin with the Feb. 1985 issue.

Perhaps many readers do not realize that there is intended to be a difference between a “Report” and a “Note”, even though both appear in a single section. Very few Notes are now submitted for review; however, we believe that Notes can serve a useful function to an audience including and beyond our research scientists. We hope that the *Notes* section, with increased visibility, will convince individuals to contribute to this section on a regular basis.

The new format will retain the sections for *Symposia, Features, Cultivar & Germplasm Releases*, and *In Short, In Hort.* Outwardly, the appearance will not change. The *Reports* section will include those articles approved for publication and the same criteria for submission will be used. The *Notes* section will follow *Reports* and will be limited to brief articles (a single printed page, including photos, artwork, and tables) with emphasis on usefulness in research, teaching, and/or extension. Notes may include results of industry-university collaboration in research or teaching, computer software developments, demonstration experiments (now published in the *Demonstration Experiments* section, which will henceforth cease to exist), descriptions of a new technique or substantive progress in a research program, and observations of phenomena that may be useful to scientists, teachers, and extension professionals.

The same procedures for review and approval will be used, and articles may be rejected, as now, if they do not present a solid, high-quality contribution. Authors will be encouraged to specify the section for which a contribution is intended—*Feature, Report, Note, or Cultivar & Germplasm Release*—and the Associate Editor may recommend a change to a different section. Currently, articles are judged primarily as Reports, and some of these, rejected because of a criticism not related to quality of research, might be revised to become an excellent Note. The *Notes* section, however, will not become a dumping ground for inferior contributions of use to few horticulturists.

Appropriate changes will be made in the “*Instructions to Authors*”, and these instructions should be consulted by every author before preparing an article (many, even now, do not read these instructions carefully). With the cooperation of authors and the publications staff, we believe that the *Notes* section can become a valuable resource for county agents, industry personnel, teachers of both vocational and baccalaureate levels, scientists, and, perhaps most importantly, students of horticulture. As a preview of the kind of article envisioned, the segments from the “*Instructions to Authors*” pertaining to *Reports* and *Notes* are reproduced as follows:

**Reports.** *Reports* constitute a major part of each issue. *HortScience* will publish short papers emphasizing significant new concepts, methods, applications, and preliminary research findings. Reports generally are limited to a maximum of 2 printed pages (about 6 or 7, double-spaced, typed pages, including tables). These Reports are encouraged from all commodity areas of horticulture, from all research, education, extension, and industry disciplines, and from the international sector. Emphasis is on clarity of communication; when possible, Reports should be written in a less technical language than that used in the *Journal*, which is the Society’s primary repository for longer, detailed papers on completed research findings.

The criteria for acceptability include:

1) An original article emphasizing noteworthy concepts, new methods, or applications, or items of unique general interest, such as new mutants, a nutritional or physiological abnormality, or a new test procedure.

2) Preliminary research findings of important new ideas or discoveries of possible immediate interest to horticulturists, which might suggest research projects to others. This does not mean year-to-year progress reports; rather, it implies early reporting with a limited amount of data of what the author believes to be outstanding and significant new findings. The study need not be complete. For example, a treatment that increases yield by 25% or decreases spoilage by 50%, but is based on only one season’s data or one or 2 experiments, could be written as a Report.

**Notes.** Notes are limited to a single printed page (3 double-spaced, typed pages), including tables or graphs and literature cited. Submissions will be reviewed as critically as *Reports*, although they need not be presented in as rigorous a form. The subject matter might encompass investigations or observations for which data analysis or experimental design might not be applicable. Emphasis will be on usefulness to horticulturists. There is no abstract for Notes.

The criteria for acceptability include:

1) Short papers of special appeal to Associate Members (who do not receive the *Journal*) which present practical new techniques in a usable fashion. Articles with wide interest are encouraged, including interpretative presentations of applied research findings, with emphasis on commercial application.

2) Short reports of cooperative research among horticulturists and growers or industry representatives.

3) Observations of particular value to those in research, extension, teaching, or industry.

4) Demonstration experiments, including descriptions of laboratory exercises or field experiments suitable for classroom teaching or extension clientele.

5) Computer software developments as applied to horticulture.

This reorganization is the first of several planned changes in our publications. A 2nd change—publishing a monthly newsletter—will affect *HortScience* measurably, but communication with Society Members will be improved because of it. The concept of a monthly newsletter was approved by the Publications Committee in Aug. 1984. The proposed newsletter would include the *Society Affairs* section in *HortScience*, communications from Working Groups, positions available announcements, and other useful and timely information. This concept is being developed further by the Publications Committee and the Publications Dept.

Another, rather minor, change already has been adopted. As needed, a *Letter to the Editor* section will be placed in the *Journal*. It seems appropriate that letters relating to *Journal* articles appear in the *Journal*. In the past, all letters have been published in *HortScience*.

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¹ASHS Science Editor.
²Chairman of the ASHS Publications Committee.
The National Junior Horticultural Association: A Program for Youth and Leaders in Horticulture

J. Lee Taylor
Dept. of Horticulture, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, MI 48824

"I dropped a seed into the earth. It grew, and the plant was mine." This statement by Liberty Hyde Bailey, taken from A Plant at School, 1903, demonstrates the natural interest that youth have in plants. It was with this interest in mind as well as a need for more horticulture students at the undergraduate level that the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association was founded 50 years ago by Grant Snyder, Univ. of Massachusetts; Arthur Pratt, Cornell Univ.; Howard Brown, The Ohio State Univ.; and Owen Trask, Univ. of Connecticut. Snyder headed the organization for over 35 years and presided over the organization’s name change to the National Junior Horticultural Association to include fruit, flowers, and ornamental horticulture as well as vegetables.

Specific purposes of NJHA are:
- to promote and sponsor educational youth projects and activities which enhance understanding of horticulture;
- to develop good citizens who will develop a basic understanding of nature and an acceptance of responsibility for the environment in which they live;
- to acquaint youth with the many varied career opportunities, both vocational and professional, available in horticulture; and
- to provide young people and their adult leaders with new experiences in group participation, cooperation, and leadership.

NJHA’s program usually operates through and with existing youth programs, such as 4-H and the Future Farmers of America (F.F.A.), but youths also can participate directly in NJHA projects without any other organized group affiliation. In most instances, the NJHA program provides more depth and breadth than other programs. Projects range from caring for houseplants to growing several acres of fruit or vegetables; from production and marketing to experimenting and improving the environment; from a demonstration on propagating woody ornamentals to an illustrated talk on making a corsage. Some states have formed their own chapter of NJHA and have conducted their own training sessions, workshops, and contests.

The age limit for NJHA projects is 15 through 22. Young America Horticulture Contests, sponsored by NJHA and formerly the Flower and Garden Foundation, include gardening, plant propagation, environmental beautification, and experimental horticulture. These contests are open to youth, 8-years-old and younger (who are able to print their report) through 14 years of age. Young contestants (3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) often submit more interesting and original reports than older contestants.

Projects and activities of NJHA fall mainly into 2 major types: report-type projects, where individuals or groups carry out a project and then complete a written report describing and illustrating what they did and how; and performance-type projects, where individuals or teams compete in a variety of contests, including demonstrations, public speaking, and horticulture (judging, plant identification and knowledge). State-wide contests are held in many states to select contestants for national contests held during the NJHA Annual Convention.

Around 1 Oct., participants in report-type projects forward their reports to their state chairperson (usually an extension specialist or agent) for evaluation. The state chairperson, often with a committee, determines the winner in each project who then attends the Annual Convention and is interviewed by an evaluation committee. The evaluation committees, I for each report-type project, also will evaluate each contestant’s report form before meeting the contestants. A 3rd, and selective, program is the Scottish Gardening Scholarship providing a full-year of horticultural study and work experience in Scotland for 1 youth. Longwood Gardens, Inc., and the Scottish-American Heritage, Inc., cooperate in conducting this program.

The Annual Convention is a 4-day event (Friday through Monday) held in a different city each year in late October. Attendance ranges between 350 and 500 delegates, two-thirds between 15 and 22 years of age, and the remaining delegates being state leaders, advisors, teachers, coaches, and other adults. Contestants in the Young America Contests are discouraged from attending the convention, except to receive an award if they live in the general vicinity. The 4-day event usually adheres to the following schedule:

- Friday evening — Welcome Banquet and entertainment;
- Saturday — Contests, interviews, Careers Banquet;
- Sunday — Inspirational service, workshops, business meeting, local tours, state dinners;
- Monday — All-day field trips to horticultural and other educational enterprises, Awards Banquet.

Workshop topics vary from year to year, but may include such topics as cacti and succulents, bonsai, international foods, heritage gardening, flower arranging, and photography. Delegates may participate in 2 different workshops. Tours visit different horticultural establishments depending on the location of the convention, such as nurseries, greenhouses, botanical gardens, orchards, processing plants, distribution centers, packing plants, and markets. Results of contests and project evaluations are announced at the Awards Banquet.

NJHA’s program of projects and activities has been endorsed or approved by many organizations and agencies which include: the 4-H Division of the Cooperative Extension Service, American Society for Horticultural Science, American Horticultural Society, American Association of Nurserymen, American Seed Trade Association, Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturist, The National Grange, The Na-