

Report on the status of Invasive Plant Science and Management for 2008
Joseph M. DiTomaso, Editor

For its first year, the journal can be considered very successful. We have maintained our submission rate to a steady level and expect this to increase as our advertisements begin to pay off. We have also achieved our goal of publishing research papers on the biology, ecology, management, and restoration of invasive plants and infested areas. Although submissions are primarily from the western US, we do have a significant number of papers from other regions of the country, in addition to international submissions.

During the year we have added a section on Invasion Alerts, in which two articles have been published so far. We also set a policy for replicated experiments and included a conversion table in the back of each issue. With the help of Allen Press and Janet Clark, we have attended a number of professional scientific meetings and distributed journals and other items to numerous people. All indications are the journal is received with great enthusiasm and we expect this to translate into increased submissions.

The marketing budget will be prepared by Janet Clark. With Lori Wiles, we discussed how reviewer awards would be given. It was decided that three awards should be given to top reviewers, but that this would not be specific to the three journals. The reason for this is that many individuals review for more than one WSSA journal and their accumulative service as a reviewer would be worthy of the award. However, if they were evaluated by their contribution to individual WSSA journals they may not be recognized. Thus, the top three reviewers, based on the criteria already in place, should receive awards at the annual meeting, regardless of which journal they served as an outsider reviewer.

Since the journal has only been in existence for 1.5 years, there are no outgoing Associate Editors. Thus, there is no need to recognize AE at the annual meeting.

The future goals of IPSM include:

1. To increase the number of submissions such that 15 papers are published per issue. This is an increase of three papers per issue.
2. Increase our institutional and individual memberships on our way to profitability for the society.
3. Apply to ISI for an impact factor at the end of 2009. It is critical that IPSM be included on the Web of Science, as it will attract high quality papers and high submission numbers. Allen Press will work on this with the editor.

I have included a number of tables and my interpretation to give an overall view of where the journal is at this point.

Statistics on first year of journal

1. Number of issues published – 4
2. Number of papers published – 48
3. Total pages – 430
4. Average number of articles per issue – 12
5. Average pages per issue – 108

Category	Number Articles
Research	36
Case study	4
Invited review	3
Notes and Commentary	3
Invasion Alert	2

Our original goal was to create a journal that was primarily research papers, but with other types of articles including case studies and reviews. Although I would like to see a few more high quality review articles, we have, by-and-large, achieved our objective. I expect that next year there will be more Invasion Alert articles, as this was only initiated in mid-2008.

Discipline or topic of research articles	Number Articles
Invasion dynamics and risk assessment	9
Biology	4
Ecology	4
Control	22
Mechanical	3
Cultural (grazing, burning)	4
Biological	3
Chemical	9
Eradication	1
IPM	5
Restoration	3

The breakdown in the topic of published papers indicates that 48% of the research or research related papers are on control options. Of these, 36% are strictly herbicide studies, 40% on other non-chemical options, and 20% integrate more than one technique. Only 7% of the papers are related to restoration, which is a bit lower than I had hoped for. In addition to control and restoration, 40% of the articles published are on some aspect of invasive plant invasion, risk assessment, biology, and ecology. This distribution was what we had hoped for when the journal was first developed.

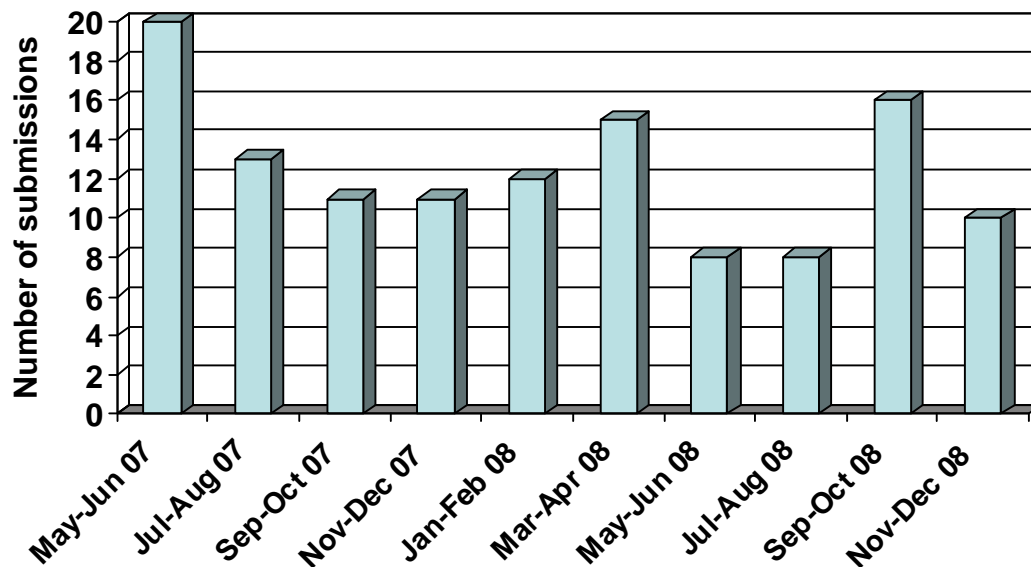
Region	Number Articles
West	24
South	5
Northeast	5
North Central	6
Canada	1
National	4
International	2

Although the majority of papers published cover issues related to the western US (51%), there is clearly national interest, and to some degree international, with about 11 to 14% from the other three regions of the country and 9% having a broad national focus.

IPSM Journal Summary from 2007 and 2008

Manuscript Types	Total # of Submitted Manuscripts	Acceptance Rate (%)	Total # of Accepted Manuscripts	Total # of Rejected Manuscripts	Total # of Pending Manuscripts	Days from Receipt to First Decision	Days from Receipt to Final Decision
Research	93	66	47	24	22	69	121
Invited Review	11	38	3	5	3	63	81
Notes and Commentary	7	50	3	3	1	49	94
Case Study	6	33	2	4	0	59	85
Invasion Alert	3	100	3	0	0	98	119
Symposium	3	100	1	0	2	89	187
Education	1	100	1	0	0	60	80
Total	124	63	60	36	28	68	114

The data in the table represents all manuscript submissions from 2007 to December 2008. There was a similar rejection rate (37%) relative to Weed Technology and Weed Science. Rejection rates were very high for review articles (62%) and for case studies (67%). My personal view is that this is due to the inexperience of some case study authors who are not familiar with the rigor required to publish in a peer-reviewed journal. For reviews, we have received a number of articles that were either incomplete or unoriginal. Although I am not familiar with the average time from “receipt of manuscript to final decision” in the other two journals, the average time in IPSM is nearly 4 months, but only 2.3 months from time of submission to first decision. The 2.3 months from time of submission to first decision is excellent.



The initial submission rate to the journal was high, as was expected. It remained steady through most of 2007 and into spring of 2008, but began to dip to a fairly low number in the summer of 2008. However, with the efforts of Janet Clark, Allen Press and me, we were able to attend a number of scientific meetings and distribute information on the journal to hundreds of individuals. This has resulted in an increase in submissions in fall of 2008 and we hope this is a continuing trend into 2009.