

PLANTS AND PEOPLE - BIOLOGY 355 - TERM PAPER INSTRUCTIONS - SPRING 2008

Assignment:

Submit a paper that provides an introduction to the biology and human use of an economically-important plant. The emphasis here will be **on the plant**, its biological and agronomic characteristics, and its use or uses by humans, including any post harvest processing, storage, or distribution.

General Information:

The following list includes attributes of the plant which might be presented in this paper: growth form and flowering/fruitlet characteristics; how it is classified taxonomically and by product; how the plant is grown, gathered, or otherwise harvested; single product or multiple products from the plant; where the plant is grown (geography and climate), breeding or other agricultural development and improvement programs for the plant (or crop); how the plant is processed (if done) and transported for use; special features (if any) of the plant; estimates about the economic impact of the plant on local and world trade; other information. The paper should be long enough to adequately address the subjects chosen (perhaps 10 double spaced pages as a starting point (see below), but should **not** be longer than 15 typed/printed pages of text (i.e. not including references and/or figures if you choose to include them). Please consult the instructor if your paper will likely exceed 15-18 pages (...not including literature cited, tables, or illustrations).

Subject:

The PLANT you choose for the term paper topic should be one *that has personal interest to you*, or it can be a plant about which you know NOTHING, but about which you are curious (NOTE! ***Do not select a plant*** related to your Mini-Review subject!). **Prior approval** of the subject you choose is required before you fully begin work on the research for this paper (to avoid excessive duplication of subjects). Therefore, I request that you submit the proposed subject (or tentative title) and a brief synopsis in the form of a paragraph of what topics you plan on writing about to me **on or before February 1st**. This can be simply **TYPED on a sheet of paper and given to me** in lecture; **please do not submit handwritten subject proposals**.

Format:

For this paper there is no specific format expected, so your own skills in organization of writing, etc. should be used. All papers must include references to the scientific literature in proper form (see below) and titles/headings should be apparent to the reader if they are used. Since this is a review-type paper, **do not** use Methods/Materials, Results, Discussion, etc.; determine the headings of sections of your paper which make sense in a logical presentation of the material. If you have specific format questions, please ask. Example papers may be put on reserve in Parks Library or on the Instructor's Web Site for your reference.

References:

References to original scientific literature (i.e. journal articles, books) should be in a generally used format. I am preferential to the format used by *The American Journal of Botany*, since all components of the citation are spelled out. Names of journals (i.e. *Nature*) are italicized or underlined, as are all latinized scientific names throughout the text. There are no length restrictions with respect to the number of references or pages used to present them. "Author-date" in-text citation is required (i.e. no sequential numbering/footnoting of references). References or data obtained electronically (i.e. the World Wide Web) must also cite the authors or source of the information and include URL (Uniform Resource Locator) information in the Literature Cited section. **NOTE: No more than 40% of the total references cited can be from web sites**; information from published journals accessed via World Wide Web do not count as web sites. Students should be well aware of all policies involving plagiarism and academic dishonesty, and should prepare their papers accordingly. **All work submitted will be considered the student's own work**, and plagiarism will not be tolerated; proper citation is required for all non-original text or figures used in the paper. The paper must have consecutive page numbers included throughout the document.

Presentation:

The text should be typed/word processed, easily read, and obviously should use proper English grammar, syntax, and diction. Remember that the audience is a "college-educated biologist", so simple terms need not be explained or defined. There should be 1 inch (2.54 cm) margins around top, bottom, and sides of each page **printed on one side only**. Captions to figures and tables should also be typed. Please do not choose fonts less than 10 point type, and all text should be double spaced (exception: literature citations, which may be single spaced). **DO NOT purchase binders** or term paper covers; the quality is assessed in the writing, not the cover. Simply staple all pages **securely** together at the upper left corner, and submit the paper on time. **NOTE: ELECTRONIC PAPER SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**; all preparation of the submitted paper must be done **by the student** in final form.

Deadline for Submission: The paper (in its completed printed form) must be submitted on or before **Friday, April 11th** (4:45 pm) and may be handed-in in class prior to April 11th, or placed in my mailbox in Bessey 253 on April 11th. *Late submissions* will be assessed a grade penalty commensurate with the level of lateness **on an arbitrary exponential scale**. Therefore, please submit the paper on time. Note that the total time given for this assignment is **NEARLY THREE MONTHS**, so last minute pleas for submission extensions, etc. will have minimal argumentative value!

In-Progress Consultation: While you are researching and writing this paper, feel free to consult with me regarding specific questions about style, references, format etc. I can look over a draft copy of the paper if it is shown to me **at least 10 days in advance** of the due date, or earlier, if possible. Help is easy and free **before April 1st**; after that date it will cost you!

