

Rules – 2023 Tansley Medal competition

Please note that entries for the 2023 Tansley Medal competition closed on 1 November 2022, and judging is in progress. If you are applying for the 2024 Tansley Medal, please read the [current rules](#). The rules on this page are for **reference only** and do not apply to the 2024 Tansley Medal competition.

1. This is a global competition open to all plant scientists in the early stages of their career, including students and any researcher with up to five years' experience since gaining / defending their PhD. The number of years' experience excludes career breaks and should be calculated back from the 31 December of the year preceding the current Medal competition (i.e. for the 2023 competition, candidates should have no more than 5 years' experience by the end of 2022).

Eligibility is determined from the date that your PhD was passed / confirmed / gained, which may be the date of a successful thesis defence, or the date that final corrections are accepted by your institution. This is not the date when your degree may have been officially presented / awarded / conferred in a graduation ceremony, as in many cases this could be significantly after the PhD was completed.

2. For the first round of the competition all applicants should submit:

- A 200-word personal statement describing their scientific achievements to date and their reasons for applying.
- Their *curriculum vitae*, including a list of publications as an appendix.
- A letter of recommendation / reference from a scientist who has agreed to support the application, usually the applicant's group leader. This statement can be up to 500 words and should include reasons for why they are supporting the applicant and why their research is important.

3. The judging panel is comprised of *New Phytologist* Editors Amy Austin, Ian Dickie, Liam Dolan, Elena Kramer, and Shuhua Yang. The judges will select the finalists for the second round of the competition, who will be invited to author a Tansley insight review. The judges will select the winner from those finalists whose articles are accepted for publication; advice from Editors and reviewers will be sought to ensure equal treatment across a broad range of subjects.

4. Tansley insights invited for the second round must be single-authored by the applicant, will be handled by a relevant *New Phytologist* subject Editor, and sent for external peer review as for any regular submission to the journal. Reviewers will be informed that the paper has been submitted as part of the Tansley Medal competition.

5. Tansley insights are short (c. 2000 words, with up to 40 references and 4 figures) and timely reviews that highlight recent developments or discoveries within the plant sciences. They are published as part of the prestigious [Tansley review series, which is free to access](#). Finalists should typically focus their Tansley insight on the subject area to which their publications have contributed, taking care to ensure a balanced view is presented. Finalists will be provided with further details and

Author guidelines. Articles must conform to all other requirements of the standard [Author guidelines](#) for *New Phytologist*; attention to these details is essential.

6. Shortlisted candidates will be confirmed within 6 weeks of the closing date for each competition. All candidates will be notified of the status of the application at this stage. Shortlisted candidates will be given three months to write and submit their Tansley insight. Time in peer review varies, but we aim to provide authors with a first decision within 35 days. Minor revisions should be completed within 2–4 weeks and major revisions within 4–8 weeks as advised by the handling Editor. Those authors whose manuscripts are rejected with encouragement to resubmit must do so within 12 weeks to remain within the competition. Final judging will take place once all manuscripts have completed peer review or the 12-week deadline for expected resubmissions has passed.