

Submission Guidelines

Article Guidelines

Writers interested in contributing to *Zone 4* should carefully read one or more issues of the magazine to gain a sense of our purpose and tone. You don't have to be a professional to submit articles on gardening, landscaping, or to give advice on plant selection or a wide variety of concerns related to high-altitude gardening, but we would like you to write having strong experience with the subject matter. While *Zone 4* is primarily a gardening magazine, we also welcome stories on gardening, garden tours, farmer's market events, food related festivals, Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA), local food production, and stories that feature outdoor living spaces.

Material in your article should be scientifically valid. If you are expressing a belief not supported by scientific evidence (for example, the efficacy of planting by the moon), then clearly indicate the basis for your statements by saying, for example, "It is my belief that this practice works." or "This practice, based on astrology, works for me." Be especially careful in making recommendations that, if misinterpreted, could be harmful to the reader or his/her property.

Horticultural Information

We prefer that you cite the botanical name, along with the cultivar if applicable, for uncommon plants or where the lack of the botanical name might cause confusion. Do not give the botanical name when casually mentioning common vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees. For example, it is not necessary to cite the botanical names if you are writing "I like apples, roses, and carrots." Do cite the botanical names for specific plants, for example, "I planted a Conical Dwarf Alberta Spruce (*Picea glauca* 'Conica')." Cite botanical names if you are writing a piece referring to more than a single species in the same genus, such as different lilac species. We follow the nomenclature of *Hortus Third*. If you don't know the botanical names, don't worry, we'll supply them for you.

Before You Submit

Query us before submitting your article by e-mailing dan@zone4magazine.com. If we give you an assignment, we will discuss

your topic, approach, and provide you with a payment quote at that time. Our standard agreement is to purchase first North American rights, with the author free to sell the work elsewhere 90 days after publication in *Zone 4*.

Types of Articles:

Features

These articles run on average, about 2,000 words. We'll discuss length on assignment. Feature stories should highlight people and their gardening related activities. See "Perennial Pleasures" in Volume 1, Issue No. 1, page 30 as an example.

Non-feature articles

On average these articles run 750-1200 words. These more narrowly focused pieces address similar themes as feature articles.

Around the Zone

Our catchall department, these articles average 500 words. We are interested in a wide range of gardening news and events in our region: Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and the northeastern mountainous area of Utah. Topics include local food gatherings and festivals, conferences, farmer's markets, private gardens, and interesting people involved in private gardening, market gardening, Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA), and local or regional food production. Accompanying photos or illustrations are helpful.

Hands in the Dirt

This column includes "how-to" pieces of 500-800 words. Please submit drawings and/or photographs essential to reader understanding with the text.

The Compost Pile, Q&A with Dr. Bob, and How Does Your Garden Grow?

We welcome submissions to these departments. Answers to readers' questions may appear in the magazine, or on the *Zone 4*'s website. We are

not able to provide individual responses to submitted questions. We cannot guarantee publication and will pay no fees.

Outdoor Art

We are interested in quality outdoor installations. Text and photos should run one page.

Manuscript Preparation

Text should be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with a ragged right margin.

We prefer electronic submissions of your manuscript, in Microsoft Word. If you do not have computer access, you may mail us your hard-copy manuscript. If you wish that we return the hard-copy manuscript to you, please include a stamped return-addressed envelope. We are not responsible for any lost or damaged manuscripts.

Photographer Guidelines

We seek to emphasize people in their gardens through the photography we publish. For example, while not all of the photos must include a person, if we are publishing a story about someone's special garden, we want to see that person in her garden at least once or twice, in a natural pose, or actually gardening. We pay for photos, based on published size, and credit each one.

Covers

Zone 4, unlike other gardening magazines, focuses on high-altitude gardening interests. Cover photos should include mountains, rocks, or native species of trees, flowers, and other plants that indicate the subject matter is in the Rocky Mountain region. Again, we like to feature a person on the cover, but it's not essential if everything else about the composition is of excellent quality.

Photo Essays

We occasionally run “Flowers on Main,” showing how local businesses dress up their storefronts with plants. See Volume 1, No. 1, page 62, “Red Lodge, Montana” for an example. Other themes will be considered.

The End Zone

This is the familiar “parting shot” page seen in the back of many magazines. We want *Zone 4* to provide helpful gardening information, but we also want it to be fun. We aren’t interested in beautiful sunsets; we’d rather “The End Zone” submissions make us chuckle.

Photo Submissions: Digital images are strongly preferred. Photographs should be submitted in .jpg or .tif formats. 300 dpi. If you’re not familiar with measurements of resolution, be sure to set your digital camera to the highest setting. We prefer that you e-mail your digital images. However, slides and prints will be considered, but must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped return envelope if you wish us to return your work to you. We are not responsible for any lost or damaged material.

Illustrators

Please query us, or submit samples of your work by e-mail to the editor, or by regular mail.

All article, photography, and illustration queries and submissions should be sent electronically to:

dan@zone4magazine.com

Mail hard copy to:

Zone 4

PO Box 3208

Bozeman, MT 59772

406-600-8210