

Special Issue

Biotechnology of Horticultural Crops

Message from the Guest Editors

Technological change has driven economic progress in agriculture and will continue to play a crucial role throughout the 21st century. The latest wave of technological change in agriculture is based on molecular biology. Will horticulture participate? Genetically engineered crop varieties have been adopted on a wide scale in some agronomic crops, but horticultural crops face larger hurdles. High costs of research, development, and regulatory approval combined with the small acreages planted and the diversity of varieties will limit the potential for profitable applications of biotechnology to many fruits and vegetables, tree fruits and nuts, and nursery crops. In addition, there are market barriers. Like most developments in agriculture, modern biotechnology has met with spirited political opposition from some quarters. In this Special Issue, articles (including original research papers, perspectives, hypotheses, opinions, reviews, modeling approaches, and methods) that focus on biotechnology of horticultural crops are of great interest, including reliable paths to create new technologies, such as gene editing and grafting, for horticultural crops.

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