

Special Issue

Breeding and Genetics of Horticultural Crops

Message from the Guest Editors

World agriculture needs genetic improvement to face the novel challenges represented by the global warming and the population growth with subsequent increase in the demand of food supplies. In light of this, the development of novel cultivars showing enhanced agricultural traits (e.g., fruit quality, yield, resistance to biotic and abiotic stress) represents a fundamental step toward the increase in quality and quantity of horticultural products. Furthermore, improved crop varieties, suited to a range of agroecosystems, resilient to climate change, and characterized by relevant agronomical traits, are key to a sustainable crop production. To this end, a deep understanding of the genetic basis regulating phenotypes of interest and the application of conventional and biotechnological breeding tools combined with marker-assisted selection represent a way to meet the increasing consumer demands in terms of production, safety, and quality and to protect the environment.

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