Special Issue

Postharvest Physiology and Technology of Horticultural Crops

Message from the Guest Editor

Post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables are very high. About 30% of fresh fruits and vegetables shrivel and decay, lowering their market value and consumer acceptability. Improper handling during harvest and transportation storage cause physical damage due to tissue breakdown. Mechanical losses include bruising, cracking, cuts, and microbial, whereas physiological losses include changes in respiration, transpiration, pigments, organic acids, and flavor. Loss occurs mainly after harvesting, but it starts first from the field, during harvest (both manual and mechanical), after harvest, in storage, and during transportation. Once fruit is harvested, postharvest handling practices cannot improve the quality attained in the field; they only can slow the rate at which deterioration occurs. Therefore, postharvest quality and shelf life of fruit produce are also determined before harvest and can be affected by plant–environment interactions. Moreover, cultivation systems, like high-density plantation, can affect the quality of fruit and affect its shelf-life.

Guest Editor

Dr. Daniela Farinelli

Department of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences (DSA3), University of Perugia, Via Borgo XX Giugno 74, 06121 Perugia, Italy

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Agriculture
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
agriculture@mdpi.com

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Prof. Dr. Les Copeland
Sydney Institute of Agriculture, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

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