

Special Issue

Horticultural Crop Secondary Metabolism

Message from the Guest Editors

Secondary metabolites are products not directly involved in the development, normal growth, and reproduction of the producing plants, but are essential for their interactions with the surrounding environment. Different classes of secondary metabolites exist according to their structures, and such chemical diversity corresponds to different biological roles. Plants reserve energy and exhibit finely tuned biosynthetic and regulative pathways for their synthesis. The characterization of such compounds and the elucidation of their biosynthetic pathways and related regulation networks would be of key importance to manipulate and drive the production and the accumulation of such metabolites using genetic engineering as well as more conventional breeding approaches to produce biofortified crops, as well as boosting plant molecular farming strategies. This Special Issue of *Agronomy* therefore welcomes original research articles as well as reviews focusing on the characterization of secondary metabolites, their ecological roles including the interactions of the plants with the environment and their regulation, as well as strategies for bioaccumulation.

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