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Organic Fertilizers in Horticulture

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Message from the Guest Editors

Modern horticulture depends heavily on the external supply of mineral nutrients in the form of synthetic fertilizers, derived from extracted resources. The massive use of synthetic fertilizers has for several years been associated with a vision of agricultural modernization. The attempt to "industrialize" agricultural systems, in particular horticultural production, has entailed a very high cost for the environment, and human health, as well as a degradation of planetary conditions. Both solid and liquid organic fertilizers can act as a transition element toward sustainable low-input agriculture. On the one hand, they improve the chemical-physical and biological properties of the soil ensuring better horticultural productions. On the other hand, they require microbial degradation processes to mineralize the nutritional content and are therefore characterized as slow-release fertilizers. However, organic fertilizers can also be a potential source of environmental pollution. Furthermore, the use of organic fertilizers in open fields or greenhouses could be integrated with new precision farming practices to ensure a stable and economically sufficient yield.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Horticultural plants and their products provide sustenance, health, and beauty. A confluence of factors is putting increasing pressure on horticultural production to evolve, and innovative research is addressing these challenges. *Horticulturae* provides a venue to communicate research results in a rapid manner with open access, allowing everyone the opportunity to stay abreast of leading research addressing horticulture. I invite you to consider publishing the results of your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed journal.

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