Special Issue

Biocontrol Potential of Essential Oils in Organic Horticulture Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

The growing awareness of sustainable and safe food production and increasingly restrictive policies for pesticide use have engendered great demand for more environmentally friendly biocontrol methods. Essential oils (EOs) as a minimum-risk product for IPM strategies. Several studies have emphasized EOs´ potential for plant protection, for control insects, mites, nematodes, mollusks, invasive plants and weeds, and phytopathogenic bacteria and fungi affecting crops and harvested cultures. EOs' wide-ranging activity, biodegradability, and non-persistence in the environment are major advantages encouraging their use in horticultural systems. This Special Issue welcomes the submission of papers substantiating the promise of exploitating EOs and their constituents as emerging biocontrol products for organic food production. The Special Issue will disseminate recent developments and promote discussion emphasizing various aspects of EOs under investigation, namely: essential oils´effectiveness in the field, factors challenging their use, novel solutions to increase their stability and release, and EOs' potential as possible elicitors of plant defense.

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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.

Editor-in-Chief

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