

Special Issue

More than a Wrap: The Role of Fruit Skin in Defining Fruit Quality

Message from the Guest Editors

The fleshy, edible tissues of the fruit are surrounded by the skin, which represents its outer surface and consists of the cuticle as well as epidermal, subepidermal, and hypodermal layers. Historically, the role of the skin in determining fruit quality has been considered to be primarily linked to appearance and hence to purchase decision. However, the roles of fruit skin in defining fruit quality reach far beyond colour and overall appearance. Many quality traits of fruit are actually impacted or modulated by skin. Colour is the most noticeable of these traits, but skin properties affect many other quality aspects as well, including odour and aroma, susceptibility to pests and rots, proneness to physiological disorders (scald, cracking, russetting, etc.), water loss, mechanical properties, health-promoting properties, and even sanitary quality, as skin features may influence the retention of pesticide or agrochemical residues. The role of fruit skin as a determinant of fruit quality hence deserves a closer examination. This Special Issue welcomes original research and review articles that provide insights into all these aspects.

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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

Prof. Dr. Luigi De Bellis

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