Special Issue

Role of Nematodes in Horticultural Production

Message from the Guest Editors

The nematode community consists of both free-living nematodes (FLNs) and plant-parasitic nematodes (PPNs), with the latter being particularly problematic, as they contribute to approximately 12% of global crop yield loss. Phytonematodes represent a significant threat to the horticultural sector worldwide. Despite a wealth of research focused on the losses incurred from these pests, numerous challenges persist. While the symptoms associated with PPNs and their detection methods are well understood, there is an urgent need for the development of quicker diagnostic techniques and more effective control strategies. Horticulture is a complex and diverse industry, yet it remains vulnerable to the impact of plant-parasitic nematodes. Therefore, future research efforts should be directed toward identifying nematodes, exploring bio-management strategies, enhancing biodiversity, conducting genetic studies, and utilizing nematode bioindicators. These initiatives are essential for formulating new strategies that support sustainability in agriculture.

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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

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