

## Special Issue

# Soilless Culture—An Intensive Production Method on Its Way to Sustainability

### Message from the Guest Editors

The prognosis suggests that the area of soilless culture will be dramatically increased in the future, both in protected and open field horticulture. This will be associated with the increased use of growing media in nurseries, herbaceous plants, such as vegetables, ornamentals, medicinal and aromatic plants, and some small fruits and woody crops. Soilless cultures are called intensive-sustainable systems. However, are they sustainable or on their way to being sustainable? Today, solutions are needed to reduce or replace peat, increase nutrient and water use efficiency, and introduce circular waste flows. Using locally available and renewable raw materials, appropriate substrate mixtures, biostimulants, and adapted high techniques, such as Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things, could help us to construct a new strategy for cultivating soilless plants. This Special Issue aims to focus on recent progress in solutions to increase the sustainability of production in intensive horticulture without compromising yield and quality.

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### Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Nazim S. Gruda  
Dr. Rui Manuel Almeida Machado  
Dr. Erik van Os

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 September 2023)



## Horticulturae

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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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### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Luigi De Bellis  
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