

Special Issue

Horticultural Crop Microbiomes

Message from the Guest Editors

In nature, plants and their associated microbial communities can collectively be considered as interacting metaorganisms or holobionts: an association of a macroscopic host and a diverse microbiome consisting of bacteria, archaea, fungi, and protists, within which the microbes usually outnumber host cells. The structure of the plant microbiome is determined by biotic and abiotic factors, and it reflects high plant specificity, even at the ecotype or, in agriculture, the cultivar level. In horticulture, crop microbiomes are further influenced by agricultural practices.

Understanding horticultural crop microbiomes can lead to strategies that optimize crop productivity, resource use efficiency and stress mitigation. This Special Issue aims to highlight current knowledge and advances in the broad field of horticultural crop microbiome research based on state-of-the-art technologies. We encourage the submission of high-quality research and review articles addressing in-depth analyses of diversity, structure, specificity and drivers of all horticultural crop-associated microbial communities.

Guest Editors

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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

Prof. Dr. Luigi De Bellis
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