

Special Issue

Fruit Breeding and Breeding

Message from the Guest Editors

Fruit breeding, the genetic improvement of fruit crops, has an ancient tradition that shares links with the domestication process. Millennial genetic improvement has been achieved by grower selection, first from natural seedling populations and then from seedlings that occurred naturally in grower fields with desirable genotypes fixed by vegetative propagation. In the middle of the 19th century, hybridization between elite genotypes was achieved, followed by the selection of segregating progeny. Conventional fruit breeding is based on the continuous selection of superior phenotypes from genetically variable populations, using cycles of hybridization and selection and special techniques, such as mutation induction, interspecific hybridization, and backcross breeding. Recently, biotechnology techniques have been employed, including in vitro propagation, embryo rescue, protoplast fusion, marker-assisted selection, and transgenesis. The Special Issue 'Fruit Breeding and Breeding' aims to highlight the latest improved methods and techniques used to investigate the research questions in genetic studies on fruit breeding in the current genomic era.

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