



Pre and Postharvest Physiology and Biochemistry of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

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Message from the Guest Editors

Fruits and vegetables play an important role in human nutrition and health, particularly as sources of essential biomolecules such as vitamin C, thiamine, niacin, pyridoxine, folic acid, fatty acids, minerals and dietary fibre.

Some components of fruits and vegetables (phytochemicals) are strong antioxidants and modify metabolic activation and the detoxification/disposition of carcinogens, and may even influence processes that could change the course of a tumor cell, but they are highly perishable as they remain metabolically active until they are consumed. It is of great importance to highlight the most significance changes occurring during maturity-ripening as pre-harvest factors affecting fruit and vegetable quality at harvest time, such as bioactive compounds and antioxidant activity. The pre-harvest factors influencing post-harvest quality are cultural practices, mineral nutrition, genetic factors and climatic factors. Post-harvest factors influencing quality of fruits are genotype, maturity stage, harvest (method and time), and the applied technologies that affect the conditions during postharvest chain (sorting and grading, packaging, storage and transportation).





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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