Special Issue

Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Kernel Development in Cereal Crops

Message from the Guest Editors

Cereal crops such as rice, wheat, maize, and barley form the foundation of food security, and their kernel size, weight, composition, and overall yield are complex traits determined by a tightly coordinated developmental program. This program encompasses a series of critical events, including floral initiation and patterning, pollination, double fertilization, endosperm development and cellularization, starch and protein synthesis and accumulation, and grain filling and maturation. Understanding the molecular networks that regulate these events is paramount for future genetic improvement and breeding strategies. This collection of research and review articles aims to provide a comprehensive platform for the latest advancements in this field. The key topics explored include the roles of key transcriptional regulators, phytohormone signaling pathways, epigenetic modifications, and nutrient partitioning during grain development.

Guest Editors

Dr. Jiechen Wang

Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China

Prof. Dr. Zhiyong Zhang

School of Life Science, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 April 2026



Plants

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.1
CiteScore 7.6
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/255884

Plants
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
plants@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/ plants





Plants

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.1 CiteScore 7.6 Indexed in PubMed



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Plants is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to plant function, its physiology, biology, taxonomy, stresses, and its interactions with other organisms. It publishes original research articles, reviews, reports, conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. In original research papers, it is important that full experimental details are provided. We also encourage timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the plant research community.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Dilantha Fernando

Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2, Canada

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, PubAg, AGRIS, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q1 (Plant Sciences) / CiteScore - Q1 (Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics)

