Special Issue

Virus-Induced Diseases in Horticultural Plants

Message from the Guest Editors

In susceptible horticultural host plants, viruses hijack delicately regulated plant cell functions, taking over several host factors to enable infection, replication, and disease induction. In resistant hosts, the infection process is significantly hindered due to defense mechanisms within the plant, which have a tendency to confine the virus to the initial infection site. Host–virus interactions are often complex and mechanistically difficult to study. But understanding the mechanisms of natural resistance in plants is necessary to formulate a strategy against virus-borne diseases. Horticultural crops have evolved sophisticated defense mechanisms to fight viral infection. Researchers across the globe are attempting to identify host factors responsible for resistance and how plant virus-encoded proteins manipulate such host defenses. Such research is critical in the study of plant immunity and could open up new antiviral strategies directed toward the improvement of resistance to viral disease in horticultural crops.

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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.

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