

Special Issue

Breeding for Fruit Quality in the Climate Changes Era

Message from the Guest Editors

The fruit industry strives to create products that better suit the day-to-day lifestyle needs of consumers. Fruit breeding allows the needs of this new generation to be fulfilled in a way that benefits both growers and consumers. However, while balancing these demands for produce, breeders are also facing the most important challenge of our time: climate change. Fruit quality has always been the most important determiner of success for a fruit cultivar, considering agronomic data, nutritional and edonistic parameters, and post-harvest quality. Fruit breeding has always aimed to find a balance amongst these aspects, but the challenge of global warming is emerging as a key priority to consider when breeding fruit. New cultivars must be evaluated for their pest and drought resistance, secondary biocompounds and phenolics content, post-harvest and shelf-life adaptation, and consumer appreciation. Breeders can fulfill these competing requirements to attain the highest standards for their produce by using new genetic tools to expedite the selection process; however, it must be kept in mind that field work remains a vital part of the growing process.

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