

Special Issue

Sustainability in Fruit Production and Core Collections with Special Regards to Climate Change

Message from the Guest Editors

Climate change has complex effects on the fruit industry, because orchards are long-term investments that are located outside under special site conditions. For successful production year after year, the perennial fruit species must tolerate the local climate and soil conditions well. In an intensive orchard, the tree height is limited; however, their production and yield is much higher compared with traditional orchards. During the orchard maintenance period, some dedicated activities (e.g., irrigation, cover, special support system, special spraying technology, and planting local bred rootstocks/varieties) can be made to increase the “well-being” of the fruit trees, grafted on a rootstock or planted on their own roots, in order to increase their production, yield, and fruit/nut quality. Another important issue is that intensive orchards are particularly labour intensive. However, manpower is limited today, so during the maintenance activities of an orchard, one must also take into consideration this phenomenon. Modern techniques (mechanical/chemical fruit thinning and the usage of drones) can help growers decrease labour costs during production...

Guest Editors

Dr. Géza Bujdosó

NARIC Research Institute for Fruit Growing and Ornamentals, 1223 Budapest, Hungary

Dr. Klara Cseke

Forest Research Institute, University of Sopron, Várkerület 30/A, 9600 Sárvár, Hungary

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

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Steve W. Lyon

School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State University,
Columbus, OH 43210, USA

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