



## Postharvest Physiology and Technology of Horticultural Crops

Guest Editor:

**Dr. Daniela Farinelli**

Department of Agricultural, Food,  
and Environmental Sciences  
(DSA3), University of Perugia, Via  
Borgo XX Giugno 74, 06121  
Perugia, Italy

Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (20 December 2022)**

### Message from the Guest Editor

Post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables are very high. About 30% of fresh fruits and vegetables shrivel and decay, lowering their market value and consumer acceptability.

Improper handling during harvest and transportation storage cause physical damage due to tissue breakdown. Mechanical losses include bruising, cracking, cuts, and microbial, whereas physiological losses include changes in respiration, transpiration, pigments, organic acids, and flavor.

Loss occurs mainly after harvesting, but it starts first from the field, during harvest (both manual and mechanical), after harvest, in storage, and during transportation. Once fruit is harvested, postharvest handling practices cannot improve the quality attained in the field; they only can slow the rate at which deterioration occurs. Therefore, postharvest quality and shelf life of fruit produce are also determined before harvest and can be affected by plant-environment interactions. Moreover, cultivation systems, like high-density plantation, can affect the quality of fruit and affect its shelf-life.





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Sydney Institute of Agriculture,  
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Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006,  
Australia

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Agriculture Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
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