



Mechanical Harvesting Technology in Orchards

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Message from the Guest Editor

Harvesting is one of the most important operations in a crop. In some countries, the concept of mechanisation of this operation has been strongly introduced, and in others, it has been tackled to a lesser degree. This paradigm shift began with the introduction of the tractor, which led to the development of specific implements or equipment for the operation. Subsequently, a variety of devices and machinery were developed for harvesting and logistics. In parallel, numerous studies have been carried out to characterise the behaviour of machines and plants, and the phenomena resulting from their interaction. At present, new advances are being made in the field of robotisation of this operation—all this with a development that is linked to new emerging technologies and new techniques that can be adapted to improve mechanisation. In any case, research applied to the study and improvement of mechanised harvesting is key to the competitiveness and survival of many crops, and this must be carried out taking into account the machinery–orchards binomial. In this Special Issue, we hope to bring together those advances and research that deal with mechanised orchard harvesting.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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