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Fruit Biology

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Message from the Guest Editor

Fruit serve important roles in the lifecycle of plants. As the harbourers of seed, fruit protect the undeveloped seed from damage and then aid in the distribution of the seed upon their maturation. Many fleshy fruits also contribute significantly to human nutrition either as fresh produce or value-added products such as juices, preserves, dried-fruit or fermented beverages. While fleshy fruit are often grouped based on similar properties (e.g., climacteric versus non-climacteric), the variation in the biology of fruit is enormous. This diversity has proved to be of interest developmentally due to the array of floral tissues from which the fruit derive and significant differences in fruit morphology even within species. Fruit also store carbon in many different forms and to differing concentrations, and in many cases how or why this occurs is still unknown. Fruit are also rich sources of secondary metabolites that are used both defensively, to deter would-be consumers of unripe fruit, and as attractants to advertise that the fruit is ready to be consumed by appropriate seed-dispersal agents.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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