

Special Issue

Pre and Postharvest Physiology and Biochemistry of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Message from the Guest Editors

Fruits and vegetables play an important role in human nutrition and health, particularly as sources of essential biomolecules such as vitamin C, thiamine, niacin, pyridoxine, folic acid, fatty acids, minerals and dietary fibre. Some components of fruits and vegetables (phytochemicals) are strong antioxidants and modify metabolic activation and the detoxification/disposition of carcinogens, and may even influence processes that could change the course of a tumor cell, but they are highly perishable as they remain metabolically active until they are consumed. It is of great importance to highlight the most significant changes occurring during maturity-ripening as pre-harvest factors affecting fruit and vegetable quality at harvest time, such as bioactive compounds and antioxidant activity. The pre-harvest factors influencing post-harvest quality are cultural practices, mineral nutrition, genetic factors and climatic factors. Post-harvest factors influencing quality of fruits are genotype, maturity stage, harvest (method and time), and the applied technologies that affect the conditions during postharvest chain (sorting and grading, packaging, storage and transportation).

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Plants is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to plant function, its physiology, biology, taxonomy, stresses, and its interactions with other organisms. It publishes original research articles, reviews, reports, and conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. In original research papers, it is important that full experimental details are provided. We also encourage timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the plant research community.

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