



Organic Fertilizers in Horticulture

Guest Editors:

Dr. Francesco De Mastro

Dr. Gennaro Brunetti

Dr. Karam Farrag

Dr. Huadong Zang

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

20 February 2024

Message from the Guest Editors

Modern horticulture depends heavily on the external supply of mineral nutrients in the form of synthetic fertilizers, derived from extracted resources. The massive use of synthetic fertilizers has for several years been associated with a vision of agricultural modernization. The attempt to "industrialize" agricultural systems, in particular horticultural production, has entailed a very high cost for the environment, and human health, as well as a degradation of planetary conditions. Both solid and liquid organic fertilizers can act as a transition element toward sustainable low-input agriculture. On the one hand, they improve the chemical-physical and biological properties of the soil ensuring better horticultural productions. On the other hand, they require microbial degradation processes to mineralize the nutritional content and are therefore characterized as slow-release fertilizers. However, organic fertilizers can also be a potential source of environmental pollution. Furthermore, the use of organic fertilizers in open fields or greenhouses could be integrated with new precision farming practices to ensure a stable and economically sufficient yield.





an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Luigi De Bellis

Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and Technologies, Università del Salento, Centro Ecotekne, via Provinciale Lecce Monteroni, 73100 Lecce, Italy

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Contact Us

Horticulturae
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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horticulturae@mdpi.com
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