

Plant amino acids

Editorial

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Amino acids are of special interest to plant biologists due to their wide range of roles in plant metabolism. Amino acids are not only building blocks of proteins but also precursors for a myriad of other molecules that serve important functions in plants. Phytoalexins and cyanogenic compounds for plant defense, vitamins for plant growth, chromagens providing vibrant colors in flowers and fruits, and plant hormones that control various plant processes are a few examples of compounds derived from amino acids.

Our understanding of amino acid biosynthesis has increased dramatically over the years. This knowledge has

helped us in manipulating amino acid biosynthesis in plants in order to achieve the desired effects. Despite the increased understanding and knowledge, there are still many unanswered questions.

This special issue contains articles covering research using modern molecular tools to increase our understanding of amino acid biosynthesis and their transport in plants. Additionally, the final review article covers herbicidal inhibitors of amino acid biosynthesis and development of crops tolerant to these herbicides that have been of enormous commercial success.