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**Education**

--Ph.D. (1989): Plant Physiology & Biochemistry, Department of Biology, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York, Syracuse, NY, USA.

--B.S. (1982): Forestry, Department of Forestry, Beijing Forestry College (now Beijing Forestry University), Beijing, China.

**Working Experience**

--2007 - Present: Professor, Dept. of Plant Science, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

--2005 -2015: PI/Director, New England Center for Invasive Plants.

--2001 - 2007: Associate Professor, Dept. of Plant Science, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

--1998 - 2011: Head, Transgenic Plant Facility, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

--1998 - 2001: Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plant Science, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

--1993 - 1998: Assistant Professor, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

--1993-1993: Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

**Research Interest: Horticultural plant breeding and biotechnology**

--Development of novel horticultural plant varieties, including sterile, non-invasive burning bush (Euonymus alatus) and "EcoDwarf" lawn grasses that require minimal mowing, watering, and fertilizing.

--Development and application of genetic transformation and gene-editing technologies in horticultural plants.

**Research Publications**

--Li W., C. Chu, H. Li, H. Zhang, H. Sun, S. Wang, Y. Li, Z. Wang, T. Foster, E. López-Girona, J. Yu, Yi Li, Y. Ma, C. H. Deng, Y. Wang, X. Xu, Z. Han (2024): Near-gapless and haplotype-resolved apple genomes provide insights into the genetic basis of rootstock-induced dwarfing. Nature Genetics. 1-12. 10.1038/s41588-024-01657-2.

--Sun H., A. Kalluri, D. Tang, J. Ding, L. Zhai, X. Gu, Y. Li, H. Yer, X. Yang, G. A. Tuskan, Z. Deng, F. G. Gmitter Jr., H. Duan, C. Kumar, and Y. Li (2024): DsRNA-protein nanoparticles for effective long-distance transport, delivery and gene silencing in plants. Horticulture Research, uhae045, https://doi.org/10.1093/hr/uhae045

--Tang, D., Y. Li, L. Zhai, W. Li, R. Kumar, H. Yer, H. Duan, B. Cheng, Z. Deng, Y. Li (2023): Root Predominant Overexpression of iaaM and CKX Genes Promotes Root Initiation and Biomass Production and Initiation in Citrus. Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture. 55: 103–115. https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2885766/v1

--Liu, D., D. Tang, M. Xie, J. Zhang, L. Zhai, J. Mao, C. Luo, A. Lipzen, Y. Zhang, E. Savage, G.Yuan, H. Guo, D. Tadesse, R. Hu, S. Jawdy, H. Cheng, L. Li, H. Yer, M. M Clark, H. Sun, J. Shi, R. Budhathoki, R. Kumar, T. Kamuda, Y. Li, C. Pennacchio, K. Barry, J. Schmutz, R. Berry, W. Muchero, J. Chen, Y. Li, G. A Tuskan, X Yang (2023): Agave REVEILLE1 regulates the onset and release of seasonal dormancy in Populus, Plant Physiology, 191: 1492–1504, <https://doi.org/10.1093/plphys/kiac588>

--Li, H. H. Sun, H. Dong, S. Wang, X. Fan, Y. Li, L. Cheng, Z. Zhang, Y. Wang, X. Zhang, X. Xu, Z. Han, W. Li (2023): Genome editing of apple SQUAMOSA PROMOTER BINDNG PROTEIN-LIKE 6 enhances adventitious shoot regeneration, Plant Physiology, 191: 840–843. <https://doi.org/10.1093/plphys/kiac570>

--Duan, Z.; He, M.; Akbar, S.; Zhao, D.; Zhang, M.; Li, Y.; Yao, W (2023): Confirmation of ‘Pollen- and Seed-Specific Gene Deletor’ System Efficiency for Transgene Excision from Transgenic Nicotiana tabacum under Field Conditions. Int. J. Mol. Sci. 2023, 24, 1160. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms24021160

--Wang Y, Fan J, Wu X, Guan L, Li C, Gu T, Li Y, Ding J. (2022): Genome-Wide Characterization and Expression Profiling of HD-Zip Genes in ABA-Mediated Processes in Fragaria vesca. Plants. 11(23):3367. https://doi.org/10.3390/plants11233367

--Li, Z., Y. Pi, C. Zhai, D. Xu, W. Ma, H. Chen, Y. Li & H. Wu (2022): The strigolactone receptor SlDWARF14 plays a role in photosynthetic pigment accumulation and photosynthesis in tomato. Plant Cell Rep 41, 2089–2105 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00299-022-02908-4

--Li, Y.; Tang, D.; Liu, Z.; Chen, J.; Cheng, B.; Kumar, R.; Yer, H.; Li, Y. (2022) An Improved Procedure for Agrobacterium-Mediated Transformation of ‘Carrizo’ Citrange. Plants. 11, 1457. <https://doi.org/10.3390/plants11111457>

--Liu, D. Q. Mu, X. Li, S. Xu, Y. Li and T. Gu (2022): The callus formation capacity of strawberry leaf explants is modulated by DNA methylation, Horticulture Research. 9, uhab073, <https://doi.org/10.1093/hr/uhab073>

--Gan, L.J., M. Song, X. Wang, N. Yang, H. Li, X. Liu, Y. Li (2022): Cytokinins are involved in regulation of tomato pericarp thickness and fruit size, Horticulture Research. 9, uhab041, <https://doi.org/10.1093/hr/uhab041>

--Mushtaq, N.; Wang, Y.; Fan, J.; Li, Y. and Ding, J. (2022): Down-Regulation of Cytokinin Receptor Gene SlHK2 Improves Plant Tolerance to Drought, Heat, and Combined Stresses in Tomato. Plants. 11, 154. <https://doi.org/10.3390/plants11020154>

 --Li, Z., Y. Pi, J. Fan, X. Yang, C. Zhai, H. Chen, F. Wang, J. Ding, T. Gu, Y. Li and H. Wu (2022): High mobility group A3 enhances transcription of the DNA demethylase gene SlDML2 to promote tomato fruit ripening, Plant Physiology. 189, 315–328, <https://doi.org/10.1093/plphys/kiac063>

 --Kumar R., Kamuda T., Budhathoki R,Tang D, Yer H, Zhao Y and Li Y (2022): Agrobacterium- and a single Cas9-sgRNA transcript system-mediated highefficiency gene editing in perennial ryegrass. Front. Genome Ed.4:960414.doi: 10.3389/fgeed.2022.960414

--Zhai, L., Wang, X., Tang, D. Qi Q., Yer, Y., Jiang, X., Han, Z., McAvoy, R., Li W., & Y. Li (2021): Molecular and physiological characterization of the effects of auxin-enriched rootstock on grafting. Hortic Res 8, 74. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41438-021-00509-y>

--Yuan, G., H. Lu, D. Tang, M. M. Hassan, Y. Li, J-G. Chen, G. A. Tuskan, X. Yang (2021): Expanding the application of a UV-visible reporter for transient gene expression and stable transformation in plants, Horticulture Research, 234, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41438-021-00663-3>

--Mu Q., X. Li, J. Luo, Q. Pan, Y. Li, and T. Gu (2021): Characterization of expansin genes and their transcriptional regulation by histone modifications in strawberry. Planta, 254: 21 **6** --Cheng, J., Li, J., Zhang, Z., Lu, H., Chen, G., Yao, B., Dong, Y., Ma, L., Yuan, X., Xu, J., Zhang, Y., Dai, W., Yang, X., Xue, L., Zhang, Y., Zhang, C., Mauricio, R., Peng, G., Hu, S., Valverde, B.E., Song, X., Li, Y., Stift, M. and Qiang, S. (2021): Autopolyploidy‐driven range expansion of a temperate‐originated plant to pan‐tropic under global change. Ecological Monographs. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecm.1445>

--Wang, X., Lin, S., Liu, D., Gan, L., McAvoy, R., Ding, J., & Li, Y. (2020). Evolution and roles of cytokinin genes in angiosperms 1: do ancient IPTs play housekeeping while non-ancient IPTs play regulatory roles? Horticulture Research, 7. 10.1038/s41438-019-0211-x

--Wang, X., Ding, J., Lin, S., Liu, D., Gu, T., Wu, H., ... & Li, Y. (2020). Evolution and roles of cytokinin genes in angiosperms 2: Do ancient CKXs play housekeeping roles while non-ancient CKXs play regulatory roles? Horticulture Research, 7. 10.1038/s41438-020-0246-z

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--Li, W., Katin-Grazzini, L., Krishnan, S., Thammina, C., El-Tanbouly, R., Yer, H., Merewitz, E., Guillard, K., Inguagiato, J., McAvoy, R.J., Liu, Z., and Y. Li 2016. A novel two-step method for screening shade tolerant mutant plants via dwarfism. Frontiers in Plant Science. 7:1495. doi:10.3389/fpls.2016.01495.

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**Book Published**

--Y. Li and Y. Pei (2006): “Plant Biotechnology in Ornamental Horticulture.” Haworth Press, New York, USA.

--M. Oliver and Y. Li (2012): “Transgene Containment.” Wiley-Blackwell. Boston, USA.

**Patents and Invention Disclosures**

--Li Y.: Transgenic seedless fruit and methods (US Patent No. 6,268,552).

--McAvoy R., M. Khodakovskaya, and Y. Li: Method and composition for increasing branching and flowering response in plants through controlled, endogenous cytokinin regulation (US Patent No. 7741548).

--Li Y. and L. Hollister: Genetically Modified Plants that are Herbivore-Resistant (US Patent No.10,316,327).

--Li Y.: Improved Rootstocks for Successful Grafting (US Patent No. 11,008,581).

--Li Y.: Sterile, non-invasive burning bush plant varieties (an invention disclosure for plant protection, filed).

--Li Y. and Kumar V.: Applications of BSA-dsRNA nanoparticles in plants (an invention disclosure, filed).

--Li Y.: Short growth lawn grass (perennial ryegrass and tall fescue) varieties for drastic reduction in mowing frequency, fertilizer input, and irrigation, and greenhouse gas emission associated with lawn care (several plant protection invention disclosures to be filed).

**Grants Received**

--Y. Li. (PI). Temporal and spatial control of phytohormone overproduction in transgenic plants, USDA, $100,000 (1994-1997).

--Y. Li (PI) and Z. Cheng (Co-PI). Genetic improvement of aspen for wood production, DOE/CPBR: $110,000 (1995-1998).

--Y. Li (PI). Effects of gravity on gene expression in higher plants, NASA. $303, 563 (1996-1999).

--Y. Li (PI). Temporal and spatial control of phytohormone overproduction in transgenic plants, USDA, $87,633 (1997-1999).

--Y. Li (PI). Production of seedless watermelons via gene transfer approach, USDA, $119,629 (1996-1998).

--Y. Li (PI). Genetic improvement of seed productivity of canola, DOE/CPBR, $120,000 (1999-2001).

--Y. Li (PI) and R. McAvoy (Co-PI). Molecular genetic improvement of Petunia and Chrysanthemum for the Connecticut Floriculture Industry. Connecticut Innovations Program, $298,921. 2000-2002.

--Y. Li (PI), C. Auer, W.-D. Reiter, and S. vonBodman: A Bench-Top GC/MS for Plant Biology Research. $97,456. 2000-2001.

--R. McAvoy (PI), Y. Li (Co-PI) and M. Bridgen (Co-PI). Developing unique and commercial valuable ornamental plants through genetic engineering, Connecticut Innovations Program, $275,000 (2001-2003).

--Y. Li (PI) and R. McAvoy (Co-PI). Controlled removal of transgenes from genetically engineered crops to reduce potentially negative health and environmental implications, Connecticut Innovations Program, $291,992 (2001-2003).

--Y. Li (PI) and Z. Cheng: Genetic improvement of aspen for biomass production, $90,000, DOE/CPBR (1999-2003).

--S. von Bodman (PI), R. Gaxiola, Y. Li, L. Silbart, G. Berkowitz: A real-time PCR machine for plant molecular research. USDA. $20,000.

--Y. Li (S. Geary (PI) and Dr. Silbart (Co-PI): Mycoplasma hyopnemoniae edible vaccine from corn seed, a sub-award from USDA with $100,250 to Y. Li (2003-2005).

--Y. Li (PI) and D. Ellis: Biotech approach to neutralize the potential invasiveness of ornamental plants. USDA, $160,000 (2003-2006).

--Y. Li (PI): Removal of GM genes from pollen and seed of aspen plants: $97,000 from CPBR/DOE (2005-2007).

--C. N. Stewart Jr (University of Tennessee), D. Ow (University of California-Berkeley) and Y. Li: Biocontainment via recombination: removal of transgenes from canola pollen. USDA, $400,000 with $30,000 to Y. Li (2006-2008).

--T. Bergman and Y. Li: Engineered Microclimates for Enhanced Biomass Production. $80,000, NSF (2007-2008).

--I. Hart (PI), Y. Li, X. Yang R. Parnas & F. Carstensen: Bioenergy. USDA. 138,890. 2008-2009. $34,500 to Y. Li.

--Y. Li (PI), M. Musgrave and J. Silander: NE Center for Invasive Plants. USDA $1,835,000 (5 awards, 2006-2012).

--Y. Li (PI) and R. McAvoy: Field evaluation and refinement of the gene-deletor technology. USDA. $399,982 (2008-2012).

--M. Musgrave (PI), and Y. Li as one of other 6 Co-PIs: USDA-NNF (National Need Fellowship Grant): From Problems to Resources. An integrated training approach to biologic systems management: $240,000. (2011-2016).

--S. Suip, R. Parnas (PI) and Y. Li (Co-PI). Bioenergy, DOE. $1,500,000, with $385,000 to Y. Li (2010-2012).

--Y. Li (PI): Development of a root sucker repressing gene technology to control sucker-mediated transgene flow from poplar. USDA. $400,000 (2010-2014).

--Y. Li and R. McAvoy: Development of a Strategy to Create Plants Resistant to Animal Herbivory. Reliance Botanics. $677,228 (2012-2016).

--Y. Li (PI), Z. Deng and R. McAvoy: Development of Technologies Important for Creation and Commercialization of Transgenic HLB Resistant Citrus. Citrus Research & Development Foundation. $255,000 (2013-2016).

--Y. Li: Characterization of triploid, non-invasive burning bush. USDA. $48,000. 9/1/2014-8/31/2016.

--F. Gmitter, Z. Deng, Y. Li and R. McAvoy: Determining the Roles of Candidate Genes in Citrus-HLB Interactions and Creating HLB-resistant Citrus Cultivars. Y. Li’s project: Development of CRISPR technologies for citrus plants (Y. Li project). USDA. $3.2 million with $877,980 to Y. Li (2015-2020).

-Y. Li: Enhancing grafting success of citrus, USDA Hatch, $60,000. October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2023.

--Y. Li and R. McAvoy: Enhancing genetic transformation efficiency of mature citrus. The Citrus Research & Development Foundation. $325,000. 10/1/2016 - 9/30/2019.

--Y. Li: Establishing a Genome Editing Platform for Perennial Ryegrass and Tall Fescue. Royal Barenbrug Group. $282,046. 06/01/2019- 05/31/2022

--Y. Li and S. Stearns: Integrative and Comparative Assessment of Unintended Effects of dCas9 Methyltransferase in Tomato. $500,000. September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2025.

--Y. Li: Greenhouse and field characterization of transgenic poplar for bioenergy production. $48,508. DOE/ORNL. September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2023.

--Y. Li: Evaluation of citrus rootstock that overexpressing iaaM and CKX genes. $9,995. UConn Start. August 2021 - August 2022.

--Y. Li: Development of super-root perennial ryegrass and early germination tall fescue using genome editing technologies, $749,965. Barenbrug, September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2026.

--Y. Li: Development of drought tolerant lawn grasses $60,000. USDA-Hatch. Oct 1, 2023 to September 30, 2026.

**Invited Keynote/Plenary Lectures, Presentations and Seminars**

1) Invited seminar: Biosynthesis of abscisic acid in water-stressed leaves, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, January 9, 1990.

2) Invited seminar: Localized overproduction of cytokinin in transgenic tobacco plants, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, February 11, 1992.

3) Invited seminar: Manipulation of phytohormone contents in transgenic plants. Department of Forestry, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, March 16, 1993.

 4) Invited seminar: Manipulation of auxin and cytokinin contents in transgenic plants. Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, April 22, 1993.

5) Invited plenary symposium lecture: Abscisic acid biosynthesis and metabolism in higher plants. In XV International Botanical Congress, Yokohama, Japan; August 30, 1994.

6) Invited plenary lecture: Auxin-regulated genes and manipulation of phytohormones in transgenic plants. In International Union of Forestry Research Organization Workshop: Advances in Biotechnology of Woody Plants, Beijing, China, September 5, 1994.

7) Invited seminar: "Expression of auxin-regulated genes and auxin mediated physiological responses", Institute of Microbiology, Chinese National Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, September 7, 1994;

8) Invited seminar: Auxin-regulated gene expression and plant gravitropism, Department of Biology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, May 20, 1994.

9) Invited seminar: Manipulation of plant hormone contents in transgenic plants and their potential application in agriculture. Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China, June 15, 1995.

10) Invited seminar: Genetic and molecular dissection of auxin signal transduction pathways in higher plants. Institute of Microbiology, Chinese National Academy, Beijing, China, June 16, 1995.

11) Invited seminar: Manipulation of auxin and cytokinin contents in transgenic plants. College of Life Science, --8) Wuhan University, China, June 26, 1995.

12) Invited symposium lecture: The effects of gravity on the expression of auxin-regulated gene in transgenic plants. 15th International Conference on Plant Growth Substances. Minneapolis, July 16, 1995.

13) Invited seminar: Molecular genetic approaches to auxin and cytokinin action, Department of Biochemistry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, November 6, 1996

14) Invited participant and presentation: NASA’s International Workshop: "Planning Workshop for Aquatic Research in Space”, Woods Hole, MA, May 2, 1996.

15) Invited Symposium presentation: Xylem specific manipulation of auxin contents in transgenic plant. Plant Biotechnology Symposium, Washington DC, March, 1997;

16) Invited symposium lecture: Transgenic approaches to auxin and cytokinin action, Agricultural Biotechnology Symposium, Storrs, CT, June 18,1998.

17) Invited plenary symposium lecture: Improvement of growth rate and wood productivity of aspen, Plant Biotechnology Symposium, Washington DC, March 12, 1999

18) Invited seminar: Molecular and genetic approaches to the effects of auxin and gravity on higher plants, University of Rhode Island, February 18, 1999.

19) Invited seminar: Temporal and spatial control of plant hormone concentration in transgenic plants, Department of Animal Science, University of Connecticut, April 8, 1999;

20) Invited Workshop Lecture: “Molecular action of auxin: from earth to space”. In the section of “New Frontier in Plant and Animal Genetic Research” University of Connecticut College of Agriculture Excellence Committee Workshop, May 21, 1999.

21) Invited Presentation: “Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture” 1999 Advisory Broad Meeting of The Department of Connecticut State Department of Agriculture, Hartford, CT, June 21, 1999.

22) Invited Plenary Symposium Lecture: Manipulation of Endogenous Plant Hormones and Its Applications in Agriculture and Horticulture, US-Sino Symposium on Biotechnology, Xian, China, July 13, 1999.

23) Invited Seminar: Plant Gene Transfer and Crop Improvement. Northwest University of Agriculture, Chongqing, China, July 14, 1999.

24) Invited Seminar: Manipulation of Plant Hormone Contents and Its Applications in Crop Improvement, Beijing Forestry University, September 24, 1999.

25) Invited Seminar: Effects of Gravity and Micro-Gravity on Gene Expression in Higher Plants, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China, September 24, 1999.

26) Invited Seminar: Temporal and Spatial Control of Hormone Gene Expression and Its Applications in Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry, Guanxi University, Naning, China, September 27, 1999.

27) Invited Seminar: Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture, Guanxi Providential Academy of Agricultural Science, Naning, China, September 27, 1999.

28) Invited Seminar: Plant Gene Transfer and Crop Improvement, Institute of Botany, Chinese National Academy of Sciences, Kunming, China, September 29, 1999.

29) Invited Seminar: Regulations of Plant Hormone Contents and Its Application in Crop Improvement,” Department of Pathobiology, University of Connecticut, Oct 13, 1999.

30) Invited Plenary Symposium Lecture: Plant Biotechnology and Its Impact on 21 Century, Second International High-Tech Trade Fair, Shenzhen, China, October 14, 2000.

31) Invited Plenary Symposium Lecture: Gene-Transfer-Mediated Regulation of Plant Hormone Contents in Transgenic Plants, Nanjing Sino-America Agricultural Biotechnology Symposium 2000, Nanjing, October 11, 2000.

32) Invited Seminar: Transgenic Approach to understand plant hormone action, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, October 16, 2000.

33) Invited Plenary Symposium Lecture: Manipulation of endogenous plant hormone contents and its applications in crop improvement, American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting’s Sorghum symposium, Minneapolis, November 9, 2000.

34) Invited Symposium Lecture: Plant biotechnology and its applications in agricultural and biomedical industries. The 3rd International conference on High Tech, Guanzhou, December 28, 2000.

35) Invited Seminar: Gene Transfer Mediated Regulation of Plant Hormone Contents in Transgenic Plants, Zhongshan University, Guanzhou, December 29, 2000.

36) Invited seminar: Gene-Transfer-Mediated Regulation of Plant Hormone Contents in Transgenic Plants, Sichuan University, Chendu, January 9, 2001.

37) Invited Seminar: Transgenic approach to auxin action: from earth to space. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, March 2, 2001.

38) Invited Seminar: Transgenic plants as bioreactors to produce pharmarcuiticals. Biotech Symposium and Business, New York, NY, April 14, 2001.

39) Invited Seminar: Manipulation of endogenous plant hormone contents and its applications in crop improvement, Beijing Forestry University, July, 2001

40) Invited Workshop Lecture: Genetic manipulation of phytohormones in transgenic plants, Biotech Plant Workshop, Kunming, January 21, 2002.

41) Invited symposium Lecture: Gene transfer-mediated manipulation of plant hormones in transgenic plants, International Symposium on Advances in Tree Development & Biotechniques, Beijing, August 16, 2001.

42) Invited seminar: Transgenic Approach to understand plant hormone action, China Agricultural University, Beijing, August 18, 2001.

43) Invited seminar: Gene transfer-mediated regulation of plant hormone contents in and improvement of horticultural crops. UConn CANR Graduate Research Forum, April, 2002.

44) Invited seminar: Gene transfer techniques-mediated improvement of agricultural and horticultural crops, College of Life Sciences, Northwest Agricultural University, Yangling, P. R. China, July 22, 2002.

45) Invited seminar: Gene transfer techniques-mediated improvement of horticultural crops, Biotechnology Center, Southwest Agricultural University, Chongqing, P. R. China, July 26, 2002.

46) Invited seminar: 1) Plant biotechnology and agriculture; 2) Gene transfer techniques-mediated improvement of agricultural and horticultural crops, College of Life Sciences, Guizhou University, Guiyang, P. R. China, July 31, 2002.

47) Invited seminar: College of Science and Technology for Food and Nutrition, China Agricultural University, Beijing, P. R. China, August 7, 2002.

48) Invited seminar: Transgenic approaches to auxin action and genetic improvement of horticultural crops. Department of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee. Knoxville, Tennessee, November 21, 2002

49) Invited seminar: Transgenic approaches to improvement of horticultural crops. Department of Horticulture, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, March 14, 2003.

50) Invited seminar: “Biotech approach to neutralize invasive plants” New England Invasive Plant Submit Meeting on Sept. 19, 2003

51) Invited seminar: Plant Biotechnology Workshop (2003), Chongqing, P. R. China Nov 3-5, 2003

52) Invited seminar: China Agriculture University, Beijing, P. R. China Nov 7, 2003

53) Invited lecture: Science Day, Connecticut Gardener and the Environment, Falls Village CT, Mar 13, 2004

54) Invited seminar: “Controlled removal of transgenes from pollen and seeds of dicot plants.” Southwest Agriculture University, Chongqing, P. R. China June 8, 2004

55) Invited workshop lecture: “Biotech approach to neutralize invasiveness of exotic ornamental plants.” 2004 Biotech Workshop, Annual Meeting of American Society of Horticulture Science, Austin, Texas, July 17-21.

56) Invited Lecture: “Controlled removal of GM genes from pollen and seeds.” 2004 Biotech Workshop, Annual Meeting of American Society of Horticulture Science, Austin, Texas, July 17 -21

57) Invited seminar: “Biotech approaches to control undesirable spread of GM genes and invasive plants.” USDA Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville, West Virginia. September 21, 2004.

58) Invited seminar: “Biotech approaches to improve biomass production of poplar and to produce transgene free pollen and seed from transgenic plants: Department of Plant Science, University of Tennessee, April 21, 2006

59) Invited seminar: “Biotech approaches to improve biomass production of poplar and to produce transgene free pollen and seed from transgenic plants: The Department of Plant Science, DOE Oak Ridge national Laboratory, Knoxville, Tennessee, April 24, 2006.

60) Invited keynote symposium lecture: “GM gene deletor system for production of GM gene free pollen and seed from GM plants.” Symposium 10: Plant Biotechnology: From Bench to Commercialization. 27th International Horticultural Congress & International Horticultural Exhibition, Seoul Korea. August 13-19, 2006.

61) Invited keynote symposium lecture: “Biotech approach to neutralize invasiveness of exotic plants.” Symposium 2: Asian Plants with Unique Horticultural Potential. 27th International Horticultural Congress & International Horticultural Exhibition, Seoul Korea. August 13-19, 2006.

62) Invited symposium lecture: Genetic Improvement of Bioenergy crops. Biofuel Symposium: Storrs, CT, USA on January 8, 2007.

63) Invited symposium lecture: “GM gene deletor” to delete GM genes from pollen and seed. International Conference on “Plant Transformation Technologies” Vienna, Austria, February 4-7, 2007.

64) Invited seminar: “The gene deletor technology and genetic Improvement of Bioenergy Crops”. Monsanto Company, Mystic, CT. May 4, 2007

65) Invited seminar: “The gene deletor technology and genetic Improvement of Bioenergy Crops.” Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. May 8, 2007

66) Invited symposium: “Biotech approach to neutralize invasiveness of exotic ornamentals”. Symposium: Invasion Biology and Management Under Changing Climates, EcoSummit-2007, Beijing, China. May 23, 2007.

67) Invited seminar: The ‘gene-deletor’ technology and genetic improvement of poplar plants.” College of Life Sciences, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, P. R. China. May 24, 2007.

68) Invited seminar: The ‘gene-deletor’ technology.” National Laboratory of Agricultural Biotechnology, China Agricultural University, Beijing, P. R. China. May 25, 2007.

69) Invited seminar: “The gene deletor technology.” The Ministry of Agriculture of P. R. China. May 28, 2007.

70) Invited speaker: “Genetic improvement of biomass production and development of the gene deletor technology for energy crops." Annual Meeting of Northeast Section of American Society of Plant Biologists, Syracuse, NY. June 1, 2007.

71) Invited seminar: The gene deletor technology and its potential applications.” College of Life Sciences, Sanxia University, Nichang, Hubei, P. R. China. July 26, 2007.

72) Invited seminar: The ‘gene-deletor’ technology and its potential applications.” College of Life Sciences, Hubei University, Wuhan, Hubei, P. R. China. July 27, 2007.

73) Invited seminar: The gene deletor technology and its potential applications.” College of Horticultural Sciences, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, Hubei, P. R. China. July 27, 2007.

74) Invited seminar: The gene deletor technology and its potential applications.” National Academy of Agricultural Science, Beijing, China. July 31, 2007.

75) Invited symposium lecture: “Two new tools for genetic improvement of cellulosic energy crops: the gene-deletor and “growth promoting’ technologies." The Northeast Sun Grant Regional Feedstock Summit. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. November 11-13, 2007.

76) Invited seminar: “The gene deletor technology and its potential applications." Cornell University’s Geneva Experiment Station and USDA Agricultural Research Station, Geneva, NY. November 13, 2007.

77) Invited workshop lecture: "The gene deletor: a new tool to address potential invasive and gene flow problems of transgenic bioenergy crops" Plant and Animal Genome XVI Conference. San Diego, California. January 12-16, 2008.

78) Invited Mini-Symposium Presentation: “Gene deletor: a tool to eliminate all transgenes in pollen and seed when their functions are no longer needed or their presence can cause concerns. Mini-Symposium for Plant Biotechnology, Annual Meeting of American Society of Plant Biologists. Merida, Mexico. June 26-July 1, 2008.

79) Invited Workshop Lecture: "The newly developed gene deletor technology and its potential applications in transgenic agriculture.” Biotechnology Workshop of Annual Conference of American Society of Horticultural Science: Orlando, FL. July 21-24, 2008.

80) Invited Colloquium Lecture: "The gene deletor technology and mutational breeding techniques in development of non-invasive forms of exotic horticultural crops." Annual Conference of American Society of Horticultural Science. Orlando, FL. July 21-24, 2008

81) Invited Keynote Lecture: “The gene deletor technology: a new tool to address concerns over transgenic plants” at the 3rd National Conference on Biosafety: Harbin, China. December 16, 2008.

82) Invited Symposium Speaker: “Gene deletor: a tool to eliminate all transgenes in pollen and seed when their functions are no longer needed or their presence can cause concerns” at the Plant Biotechnology Minisymposium of the Joint Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists and the Sociedad Mexicana De Bioquimica Rama: Bioquimica y Biologia Molecular de Plantas: Plant Biology. Merida, Mexico. June 26-July 1, 2008.

83) Invited Workshop Lecture : “The gene deletor technology.” Invited presentation” at the Connecticut Environment Action Day Workshop. Storrs, CT. October 3, 2008.

84) Invited Colloquium Lecture: “Using the gene deletor technology and breeding techniques to reduce the invasiveness of exotic ornamental crops” at the Colloquium entitled: Impacts of Invasive Plants on the Horticulture Industry in the Biosecurity Age." The American Society of Horticultural Science Annual Conference. Orlando, FL, July 21-24, 2008.

85) Invited Workshop Lecture: “The gene deletor technology and its potential applications in horticultural and bioenergy crops” at the Workshop titled “Emerging Technologies for Biotechnology and Crop Improvement,” the 2008 American Society of Horticultural Science Annual Conference. Orlando, FL, July 21-24, 2008.

86) Invited Seminar: “The gene deletor technology.” The University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI. August 8, 2008.

87) Invited Seminar: “The gene deletor technology: a new tool to address concerns over transgenic plants.” National Key Laboraotory of plant Physiology and Biochemistry, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China. December 22, 2008.

88) Invited Seminar: “The gene deletor technology and its greenhouse and filed performance.” Invited seminar presentation. Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China. December 24, 2008.

89) Invited Seminar: “The gene deletor technology and seedless fruit technology: their potential application in fruit crops.” Fruit Research Institute, Chongqing Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Chongqing, China. December 30, 2008.

90) Invited Seminar: “Research in plant science: Some thoughts and suggestions to share with young plant biologists.” College of Life Sciences, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China. January 5, 2009.

91) Invited Seminar: “The gene deletor technology and seedless fruit technology.” Invited seminar presentation. Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China. January 6, Beijing.

92) Invited Workshop Speaker: “The Gene Deletor Technology: A New Tool to Address Food Safety and Gene Flow Concerns Over Transgenic Crops.” “Plant Transgene Genetics. “ Plant and Animal Genome XVII Conference. San Diego, Ca, USA. Juanary 10-14, 2009.

93) Invited Keynote Lecture: “Plant Biotechnology: Successes, Challenges and Promises” for “Distinguished Lecture Series on Science and Technology” sponsored by the Commission of Science and Technology of Guizhou Province, Guiyang, China. March 12, 2009.

94) Invited Panel Member for International Symposium on Market-Based Forest Maturity. Purdue University, IN, USA. April 17, 2009.

95) Invited Keynote Lecture: "The gene deletor technology and a seedless fruit technology: their applications in fruits crops” at The 2009 National Conference on Genetic Improvement of Fruit Crops. Nanjing, China, May 22-23, 2009

96) Invited Symposium: “Two new molecular tools to improvement cellulosic bioenergy crops at URI-UConn Biofuels Symposium, Storrs, CT, USA. May 29-30, 2009.

97) Invited Seminar: The gene deletor technology and its evaluation under field conditions. Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China. July 3, 2009

98) Invited Seminar: The gene deletor technology. College of Life Sciences, China Agricultural University. Beijing, China. July 8, 2009

99) Invited Seminar: The gene deletor and other biotechnologies developed in Li lab. College of Food and Nutrition Sciences, China Agricultural University. Beijing, China. July 9, 2009:

100) Invited Seminar: Technologies developed in Yi Li Lab and their potential applications in horticulture and forestry. College of Plant Biotechnology, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China. July 10, 2009.

101) Invited Seminar: Transgenic technologies and Agriculture. China Agricultural University, Beijing, China. Dec 10, 2009.

102) Invited Seminar: Invasive ornamental plants and their strategies to control their spread, Kunming Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry Sciences. Kuming, China. Dec 15, 2009

103) Invited Seminar: The gene deletor and other transgenic technologies developed in Li lab. Southwest Forestry University, Kuming, China. Dec 15, 2009.

104) Invited Colloquium Lecture: Making Beautiful Plants Non-Invasive. State University of new York-New Paltz - Colloquium Series. New Paltz, NY. February 18, 2010.

105) Invited Seminar: Modern breeding technologies for horticultural and bioenergy crop improvement. Graduate School, Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University, Yangling. May 11, 2010

106) Invited Keynote Lecture: The gene deletor and other technologies developed in Li Lab and their potential applications in bioenergy crops. National Doctoral. Students Forum on Bioenergy, Chengdu, China. May 15, 2010.

107) Invited seminar: Tools developed in Li Lab for fruit crop improvement. College of Horticulture, Hunan University, Changsha, Hunan, China. May 22, 2010.

108) Invited Symposium Lecture: The gene deletor technology. The First International Symposium on Molecular Strategies for Crop Improvement. Beijing. China. May 29-30, 2010.

109) Invited seminar: Gene Guided Plant Mutation Breeding and Its Applications in Fruit Crop Improvement, Chongqing Academy of Agriculture, China. July 3, 2011

110) Invited seminar: Genomics Guided Plant Mutation Breeding and Its Applications in Turfgrass Improvement, Guizhou University, China. July 6, 2011.

111) Invited seminar: Gene Guided Plant Mutation Breeding and Its Applications in Crop Improvement. College of Horticulture, Hunan University, Changsha, China. July 13, 2011.

112) Invited seminar: Gene deletor and other biotechnologies developed in Li Lab for horticultural crop improvement Tools developed in Li Lab for fruit crop improvement. College of Horticulture, Nanjing Agricultural University, China. July 15, 2011.

113) Invited Keynote Lecture: Genomics Guided Precision Mutation Breeding and Its Application in Horticultural Crop Plants. The Third National Conference of Molecular Biology and Breeding of Fruit Crops. Haikou, China. November 7, 2011.

114) Invited seminar: Genomics Guided Precision Mutation Breeding and Its Applications. Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing, China. November 8, 2011

115) Invited seminar: Genomics Guided Mutational Molecular Breeding and Its Application in Horticultural Crops. Central South University of Forestry & Technology, Changsha, China. November 10, 2011.

116) Invited presentation to the City Commission of Agriculture, Nanjing: “Some plant biotechnologies developed in Li Lab and their potential applications in agriculture”. Nanjing, China. March 12, 2012.

117) Invited seminar: Molecular Mutational Plant Breeding. Hunan Agricultural University, China. March 12, 2012.

118) Invited seminar: Genetic Improvement of Crop Plants: Transgenics or Non-Transgenics. Fruit Laboratory, China Agricultural University, China. March 13, 2012.

119) Invited seminar: Genetic Improvement of Crop Plants: Transgenics or Non-Transgenics. The Fruit and Forestry Research Institute, Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, China. March 13, 2012.

120) Invited Keynote Speaker: Genomics-Guided Third Generation Plant Breeding Technologies. The 3rd International Conference on Omics and Biotechnology of Fruit crops, Nanjing, P. R. China Oct 27-29, 2012

121) Invited seminar speaker: Crop Improvement: Transgenics or Non-Transgenics? Guandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Guangzhou, P. R. China. Dec 12, 2012.

122) Invited seminar speaker: The gene deletor technology and its potentioal applications in the third generation of plant breeding. The First EITA Conference on Agricultural Science and Technology, Biosystems Engineering: Precision Agriculture: Challenges and Future Directions. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A. June 27-28, 2013

123) Invited seminar speaker: Plant Improvement: Transgenics or Non-Transgenics? Chinese Academy of Sciences-Jiangsu Institute of Botany, Nanjing, July 8, 2013.

124) Invited seminar speaker: Plant Improvement: Transgenics or Non-Transgenics? Chinese National Academy of Forestry, Beijing, July 12, 2013.

126) Invited speaker: The gene deletor technology and its field performance. International Symposium on Molecular Biology of Fruit Trees, Wuhan, China, Oct 18-20, 2013.

126) Invited Keynote Speaker: Third generation plant breeding technologies and their potential applications in horticultural Crops. The 12th Chinese National Congress for Horticulturists. Chengdu, China, Oct 21, 2013.

127) Invited seminar speaker: Plant Improvement: Transgenics or Non-Transgenics? Zhejiang University of Agriculture and Forestry. Oct 30, 2013

128) Invited keynote speaker: Third Generation Breeding Technologies? Horticulture Institute, Shanghai Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Shanghai, China. Oct 31, 2013.

129) Invited seminar speaker: Basic and safe-guarded gene deletor technology and its performance under field conditions. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Feb 26, 2014

 130) Invited seminar speaker: Basic and safe-guarded gene deletor technology and its performance under field conditions. UF Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL. Feb 26, 2014.

131) Invited lecture: Progress report on the development of plant transformation enhancing technologies and n the genome editing using anthocyanin as the target gene. Hunan Agricultural University, May 19, 2014.

132) Invited speaker: New Non-Transgenic Technologies for Horticultural Crop Improvement. National Research Forum for Doctoral Students in Horticulture, Hunan Agricultural University, Changsha, October 10, 2014.

133) Invited speaker: Horticultural Crop Improvement: Transgenic or Non-transgenic? The Fifth National Congress of the Chinese Association for Subtropical Fruit Crops. Changsha, October 10-12, 2014.

134) Invited speaker: Crop Improvement: Transgenic or Non-transgenic? The 2014 International “Horticulture Research” Conference October 14-18, 2014.

135) Invited seminar speaker: Horticultural Crop Improvement: Transgenic vs Modern Non-Transgenic Techniques. Guangxi Institute for Specialty Crop Plants, Guilin, Guangxi, P. R. China, May 13, 2015.

136) Invited seminar speaker: Horticultural Crop Improvement: Transgenic vs Modern Non-Transgenic Techniques. Institute of Vegetable Research, Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Nanjing, P. R. China, May 29, 2015.

137) Invited presentation: Genetic Improvement of Horticultural Plants: Transgenic or Non-Transgenic? In the Workshop for “Trends in Plant Biotechnology”. Annual meeting of American Society of Horticultural Science, New Orleans, LA, USA, August 4, 2015.

138) Invited seminar speaker: Floral bud-specific toxin expression leads to flowerless phenotype with no effect on vegetative growth. The 2014 International “Horticulture Research” Conference, UC-Davis, Ca, October 29-Novemeber 2, 2015.

139) Invited lecture: Plant breeding technologies and their evolution. In Food Security and Safety Workshop for scientists and governmental staff of developing countries. Nanjing. P. R. China. May 18, 2015,

140) Invited presentation: Insights from phylogenetic characterization and manipulation of genes responsible for cytokinin accumulation in higher plants. The 17th Annual Plant Biology Mini-Symposium. University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA. May 26, 2016.

141) Invited Keynote lecture: Genome editing technologies: Progresses, challenges, and possible solutions for their application in perennial crops. The First International Apple Symposium, Yangling, China, October 13-15, 2016.

142) Invited seminar: Genetic improvement of perennial horticultural crops: Promises and challenges of classic and modern approaches. Northwest University of Agriculture and Forestry, Yangling, China, October 15, 2016.

143) Invited presentation: Agrobacterium mediated transient expression of CRISPR genes. International Citrus HLB Symposium, Florida, USA. March 14, 2017.

144) Invited speaker: Improvement of citrus transformation and application of genome editing technology in citrus. Forum on Citrus Breeding and Transformation for HLB Resistance. The US National Academy of Sciences. Irvin, California, May 22-23, 2017.

145) Invited Keynote Lecture: Production and highly efficient screening of non-transgenic mutant plants derived from Agrobacterium-mediated transient CRISPR expression. The Fourth International Horticulture Research Conference, East Malling, UK, July 17, 2017.

146) Invited Keynote Speaker: “Issues that prohibit using various breeding technologies on different types of crops”. The Resilient Agriculture in the 21st Century Convening Event. Memphis, TN. November 27-29, 2017.

147) Invited seminar speaker: Crop plant improvement: traditional mutation breeding, transgenic or genome editing? Beijing Forestry University, China, December 20, 2017

148) Invited seminar speaker: Crop plant improvement: traditional mutation breeding, transgenic or genome editing? China Agricultural University, China, December 26, 2017

149) Invited seminar speaker: New insights into the role of gibberellins in tomato ripening. China Agricultural University, China, December 26, 2017.

150) Invited seminar speaker: Crop plant improvement: traditional mutation breeding, transgenic or genome editing? Nanjing University, Nanjing, China, January 3, 2018

151) Invited seminar speaker: Crop plant improvement: traditional mutation breeding, transgenic or genome editing? Texas AM University, USA. April 4, 2018.

152) Invited seminar speaker: New insights into the role of gibberellins in tomato ripening. Beijing Forestry University, China. April 27, 2018.

153) Invited Keynote speaker: Genome editing technologies and horticultural crop plant improvement: progresses, challenges and possible solutions. 2018 Annual National Conference on Cucumber, Nanjing, China, October 14, 2018.

154) Invited seminar speaker: Application of genome editing technologies in perennial crop plants, progresses, challenges and possible solutions. College of Horticulture, Hunan Agricultural University, Changsha, China. October 15, 2018.

155) Invited seminar speaker: Agrobacterium-mediated transient expression of Cas9 and sgRNA and its application in editing of perennial crop plants. Institute of Pomology and Forestry, Beijing Agricultural and Forestry Sciences. Beijing, China. October 25, 2018.

156) Invited seminar speaker: Application of genome editing technologies in woody crop plants, progresses, challenges and possible solutions. College of Horticulture, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China. October 26, 2018.

157) Invited seminar speaker: Agrobacterium-mediated transient expression of Cas9 and sgRNA and its application in editing of perennial crop plants. University of Florida, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, USA. November 12, 2018.

158) Invited seminar speaker: Genome editing technologies and horticultural plant Improvement: progresses, challenges and possible solutions. University of Florida, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, USA. November 13, 2018.

159) Invited seminar speaker: Application of genome editing technologies in perennial crop plants: Progresses, challenges and possible solutions, Guizhou Agrobiotechnology Key Laboratory, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China. December 25, 2018.

160) Invited seminar speaker: Application of genome editing technologies in woody plants: Progresses, challenges and possible solutions, Southwest Forestry University, Kunming, China. December 28, 2018.

161) Invited seminar speaker: Application of Genome Editing Technologies in Horticultural Crops: Progresses, Challenges and Possible Solutions, Hunan Agricultural University, Changsha, Hunan, China. January 2, 2019.

162) Invited speaker: Auxin Content and Reduced Cytokinin Level in Rootstock Improve Grafting Success. The Graft Genetics and Genomics Workshop. Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVII International), San Diego, Ca. January 11-15, 2019

163) Invited speaker: Production of Transgene-Free Mutant Plants Using Agrobacterium-Mediated Transient Gene Expression System. Plant Transgene Genetics Workshop. Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVII (International), San Diego, Ca. January 11-15, 2019

164) Invited speaker and panel member: GMO Plant Technology. GMO 2.0: Science, Society and the Future. UConn, Storrs, CT April 24, 2019.

165) Invited seminar speaker: Epigenetics and Plant Breeding. Guizhou Agro-Biotechnology Key Lab, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China. July 14, 2019.

166) Invited Keynote speaker: Opportunities and challenges to use genome-editing technologies in ornamental horticultural plants. Chinese National Symposium of Ornamental Horticultural Plants-2019. Beijing, China. August 6-9, 2019.

168) Invited Plenary Lecture. “Agrobacterium-mediated transient Cas9 and gRNA expression and gene expression to produce non-transgenic gene-edited plants.” The 6th International Horticulture Research Conference. Venice, Italy. Sept 30-Oct05, 2019.

169) Invited Speaker. Using Agrobacterium-mediated transient gene expression to produce non-transgenic gene-edited plants. The 7th Plant Genomics & Gene Editing Congress. Raleigh, NC. Nov 3, 2019.

170) Invited Lecture. Epigenetic influences and potential applications in plant breeding. Hunan Ag. Univ., Changsha, China. Nov 27, 2019.

171) Invited Seminar. A critically dissection of a horticulture-related scientific manuscript. China Agricultural University, Beijing, China. Dec 1, 2019.

172) Invited Seminar. In planta Transformation and Transgene-free Gene Editing. Inari Company, Boston. February 3, 2020.

173) Invited Lecture. Preliminary dissection of auxin action in promoting grafting (July 9). The 7th International Horticulture Research Conference. July 1-30, 2020. An online conference with about 9,000 registered.

174) Invited Plenary Lecture. Molecular dissection of auxin action in promoting grafting. The International symposium for Horticultural Plant Biology and biotechnology (online). November 17-18, 2021.

175) Invited Lecture. Single Cas9-Sgrna Transcript-Mediated High-Efficiency Gene Editing and Production of “No Mowing” Turf Grasses. For the Workshop of Enabling Tool Development for Horticultural Crop Improvement Chicago. July 30-Agust 3, 2022.

176) Invited Lecture. Development of climate smart and care-free lawn grasses to tackle climate change. 2022 Horticultural Biology Conference (online). Hosted by Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University, Xian, China. December 6, 2022.

177) Invited Plenary Lecture. Development and evaluation of sterile, noninvasive burning bush. Annual Plant Production Conference of the IPPS Eastern Region. Hamilton, Canada. September 26-29, 2023.

178) Invited Lecture: Applications of Traditional and Modern Breeding Technologies in Horticultural Plants. Yanbian University, China. Online. October 12, 2023.

179) Invited Plenary Lecture: RNA-protein nanoparticles for effective long-distance transport, delivery, and gene silencing in plants. The 10th International Horticulture Research Conference, Guangzhou, China, November 10-15, 2023.

180) Invited Lecture: RNA-protein nanoparticles for effective long-distance transport, delivery, and gene silencing in plants. China Agricultural University, Beijing China, November 21, 2023.

181) Invited Lecture: Development of climate smart, low maintenance lawn grasses and RNA-protein nanoparticles-mediated effective gene silencing in plants. AgroBiotech Center, National Academy of PCR, Taiwan. November 10-15, 2023.

**Honors and Awards**

--Recipient for “Excellence in Research Award” from the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, 2008.

--Fellow (elected), American Society of Horticultural Sciences (2017).

--Member (elected), Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (2024).

**Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor for International Journals**

--**Editor-in-Chief** for “Fruit Research” (2022-Present).

--**Associate Editor** for “Plant, Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture” (2008-present).

--**Associate Editor** for “Horticulture Research” (2013 to present).

**--Associate Editor** for “International Journal of Molecular Sciences” (2019-present).

**--Associate editor** for Critical Review in Plant Science (2020-present)

--Reviewing Editor for “Frontier in Plant Science” (2014-2020).

--Associate Editor for “Journal of Agricultural Biotechnology” (2008-2022).

--Associate Editor for “Propagation of Ornamental Plants” (2014)

--Member of editorial broad of “Forest Studies in China” (2004-2006).

--Guest editor for “Journal of Crop Improvement” (2005/2006).

--Associate editor for “Acta Horticulturae: Plant Biotechnology” 2006/2007.

**Manuscript Reviewer for More Than 50 Journals** (5-10 manuscripts reviewed each year)

--Acta Horticulturae

--Acta Physiologiae Plantarum

--Annals of Botany

--Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology

--Advances in Space Research

--Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology

--Biotechnology Advances

--Biotechnology and Molecular Biology Reviews

--BMC Biotechnology

--European Journal of Soil Biology

--Frontier of Plant Science

--Genetics

--HortScience

--HortTechnology

--International Journal of Molecular Sciences

--Journal of Agricultural Biotechnology

--Journal of American Society for Horticultural Science

--Journal of Applied Microbiology

--Journal of Crop Improvement

--Journal of Experimental Botany

--Journal of Plant Growth Regulation

--Journal of Integrative Plant Biology

--Journal of Plant Physiology

--Molecular Genetics and Genomics (MGG)

--Molecular Plant

--Nature

--Nature Biotechnology

--Nature Communication

--Nature Food

--Nature Plant

--Nature Protocols

--New Phytologist

--Physiologia Plantarum

--Plant Biotechnology and Transgenic Research

--Plant Biotechnology Journal

--Plant Cell, Tissue & Organ Culture

--Plant Growth Regulation

--Plant Growth Regulators

--Plant Journal

--Plant Molecular Biology

--Plant Molecular Biology Reporter

--Plant Physiology

--Plant Science

--Plants

--Plos One

--Propagation of Ornamental Plants

--Recent Patents on DNA and Gene Sequence

--Scientia Horticulturae

--Scientific Reports

--Transgenic Research

--Tree Physiology

**External Assessor for Tenure and Promotion for 16 Institutions**

--Cornell University (3 packages)

--University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (1)

--North Carolina State University (3)

--University of Illinois (1)

--University of Florida (1)

--Texas AM University (1)

--Clemson University (1)

--Utah State University (1)

--University of Nevada - Las Vegas (1)

--State University New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (1)

--University of Tennessee-Knoxville (1)

--USDA-ARS (2)

--Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden (1)

--Chongqing University, China (1)

--Zhejiang University, China (1)

--Huazhong Agricultural University, China (1)

**Panel Member for Funding Agencies**

--USDA Plant Growth and Development (2000)

--NASA Space Biology (2003)

--Hong Kong University Grants Program (2004)

--NIH (2004, 2005)

--Northeast Sun Grant Initiative (2006)

--USDA-Plant Biology Environmental Stress (2008)

--USDA/DOE joint Bioenergy Program (2008)

--USDA Biotechnology Risk Assessment (2009)

--USDA Biotechnology risk assessment (2011)

--US National Academy of Sciences: a special funding program for citrus greening disease (2014)

--Chinese National Foundation for Natural Sciences (2014, 2015 and 2016)

--DOE Biosystems Design to Enable Safe Production of Biofuels and Bioproducts (2022)

--USDA Sustainable System (2022 and 2023)

**External Reviewer for Grant Proposals**

--NIH (2004, 2005, 2006),

--DOE (2022)

--USDA (2022, 2023)

--NSF (2001, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2022)

--USDA (2000, 2003, 2004, 2005)

--China High tech program (2000, 2003)

--North Carolina State Biotechnology Center (2000, 2001, 2002)

--Chinese National Foundation for Natural Sciences (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)

--Research Grants Council of Hong Kong (2004, 2005, 2006)

--US DOE/Consortium for Plant Biotech Research (1996-2003)

--Northeast Sun Grant Initiative (2008)

--BARD US-Israel Agricultural Research and Development Fund (2014, 2015)

--Brazilian National Council for the State Funding Agencies (2017)

--UK Research & Innovation (2015)

--Israeli Ministry of Agriculture (2014)

**Committee and Service Work on UConn Campus**

--Department Graduate Student Admission Committee (1998-2024)

--Department Faculty Search Committee (1999)

--Department Greenhouse Committee (1999-2015)

--Department Farm Committee (2001-2015)

--Department Tenure and Promotion Committee (2005, 2006 2007)

--Department Faculty Search Committee, Chair (2011)

--Department Facility Committee (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)

--Department Graduate Scholarship Committee (2022, 2023)

--College Biotechnology Task Force Committee (2000, 2001, 2002)

--College International Affairs Committee (2001, 2002/2003)

--College Dean’s Advisory Committee (2005, 2006, 2012, 2013)

--College AgBiotech Minor Committee (2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

--College Tenure and Promotion Committee (2010, 2011)

--College: Facilitating and assisting in dean’s delegation visit to three Chinese universities (2010)

--College Research Advisory Committee (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)

--College Research Excellence Committee (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)

--College "Science of GMO" Group (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)

--College Equipment Competition Committee (2020, 2021)

--College Strategic Implementation Core Group Committee (2020, 2021, 2022)

--College Vibrant Agriculture and Sustainable Food Supply Committee (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

--College Faculty Advisory Council (2021, 2022)

---College “One Health Initiative Director” Search Committee (2021, 2022)

--College USDA capacity proposals (2022, 2023, 2024)

--University: China Affairs Committee (1999, 2000)

--University: China Coordination Committee (2000, 2001)

--University: Research Foundation Faculty Large Grants (2002, 2003, 2004)

--University: Institutional Biosafety Committee (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)

--University: Plant Biology Infrastructure Committee (2003, 2004, 2005)

--University: Energy Summit (2006, 2007, 2008)

--University: Global Program Faculty Advisory Board (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

--University: Collaborating with several faculty members in the departments of Plant Science, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Nutritional Science, and Chemical Engineering to provide input for the Provost's Academic Plan (2008)

--University: Mentor Connection Program (2010)

--University: Facilitating and assisting in the arrangement of UConn's Provost delegation visit to two Chinese universities in 2011.

--University: Research Foundation Panel (2011, 2012)

--University: Facilitating student exchange programs between UConn and Sichuan University/China Agricultural University/Nanjing Agricultural University (2013, 2015).

--University: Committee for Dean’s 5 Year Review Committee (2013)

--University: Holster Scholars Program - UConn Honors Program (2023)

**Outreach and Public Education Activities (a partial list)**

--Hosted Connecticut high school students and teachers for educational visits (1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2010, 2014).

--Participated in the College’s annual Cornucopia events, showcasing Li Lab’s research achievements for public education (1999, 2000, 2021, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2013).

--Served as a speaker at the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council in Hartford (2004).

--Presented at Science Day, Connecticut Gardener and the Environment, Falls Village CT, 2004.

--Guided Connecticut state senators and representatives on a lab tour (2005).

--Hosted US Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and her staff in the lab (2005).

--Testified at the Legislature Building in Hartford on a bill on invasive plant control (2007

--Testified at the Legislature Building in Hartford on a bioenergy/biofuel bill (2007).

--Contributed to and participated in an exhibit on "Biofuel from Connecticut-based Biomass" at the CT state legislature reception, Hartford (2007).

--Testified at the Legislature Building in Hartford on a bill concerning forestry, state parks, land use, and bioenergy (2008).

--Hosted nine groups of bioenergy/biofuel visitors and conducted six presentations for various bioenergy stakeholders (2007, 2008).

--Hosted bioenergy/biofuel visitors at ABL’s Greenhouse and the Li Laboratory (2008).

--Organized greenhouse tours for the Sustainable Energy Symposium (2008).

--Hosted discussions with key figures about Connecticut’s bioenergy options and UConn’s research (2008).

--Presented at Capital Hill for the New England Invasive Plant Center, interacting with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and other Congress members (2011).

--Interview on a radio show: “Attack of the Invasive Species” By WNPR - Connecticut Public Radio (2012).

--Participated in the Connecticut Legislature’s activity for Next Generation CT, Hartford (2013).

--**Published an article titled “These CRISPR-modified crops don’t count as GMOs”** in The Conversation (https://theconversation.com/these-crispr-modified-crops-dont-count-as-gmos-96002#:~:text=Because%20the%20bacterial%20genes%20or,are%20not%20considered%20a%20GMO). The article has been re-published across various media platforms and translated into multiple languages. Despite five years having passed, it still receives attention, with 110 Twitter and 413 Facebook posts sharing the article, generating numerous positive comments about UConn and discussions from readers worldwide. 2018.

--Participated as a speaker and panel member on GMO Plant Technology at the GMO 2.0 event for a public education purpose (2019).

--Served on the College's 'Science of GMO' Group, with the aim of educating the public about GMO and gene edited foods and related topics (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023).

**Service, Committee Work, and Leadership Roles Outside UConn**

--Founder and director of the New England Invasive Plant Center. The Center had 11 faculty scientists from UConn, U-Maine, and U-Vermont with funding from US Congress appropriations. 2005-2015.

--Chair, Biotech Working Group, American Society of Horticulture Science, 2005, 2006.

--Chair, Bioenergy Working Group, American Society of Horticulture Science, 2010, 2011.

--Organizer: Workshop on "Funding Horticultural Plant Biotech Research" for American Society of Horticulture Sciences Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2005.

--Organizer: Mini-Symposium “Plant Biotechnology”, American Society of Plant Biologists 2008.

--Co-Organizer: UConn Bioenergy Symposium, 2008; URI-UConn Joint Bioenergy Symposium, 2009.

--Co-Organizer: International Symposium on "Invasive Plants in Asia and America", Storrs, CT, 2009.

--Co-Organizer: International Symposium on Molecular Strategies for Crop Improvement, Beijing, China, 2009.

--Member, International Award Committee, American Society of Horticulture Science, 2013, 2014, 2015.

--Co-Organizer: the 1St International Horticulture Research Conference in Nanjing, China. 2014.

--Co-Organizer: the 2nd International Horticulture Research Conferences in Davis, Ca, USA, 2015.

--Chair, Scientific Committee, the 1st, International Horticulture Research Conference in Nanjing, China, 2014.

--Chair, Scientific Committee, the 2nd International Horticulture Research Conferences in Davis, USA, 2015.

 --Co-chair, Scientific Committee, the 3rd International Horticulture Research Conference in Nanjing, China), 2016.

--Co-Organizer, Plant Transgene Genetics Workshop. International Plant and Animal Genome Conference, San Diego. 2017

--Co-chair, Scientific Committee, the 4th International Horticulture Research Conference in East Malling, UK, 2017.

--Co-Organizer, Plant Transgene Genetics Workshop. International Plant and Animal Genome Conference, San Diego. 2018.

--Member, Outstanding Research Award Committee, American Society of Horticulture Science, 2017, 2017, 2018.

--Chair, the Outstanding Research Award Committee of American Society of Horticulture Science in 2018.

--Member, Scientific Committee, the 5th, Co-chair, International Horticulture Research Conference, Beijing, China, 2018.

 --Chair, Scientific Committee, the 9th International Rosaceae Genomics Conference, Nanjing, China, 2018.

--Member, Scientific Committee, the 6th International Horticulture Research Conference in Venice, Italy, 2019. --Co-Organizer, Plant Transgene Genetics Workshop. International Plant and Animal Genome Conference, San Diego. 2019

 --Member, Scientific Committee, the 7th International Horticulture Research Conference. Online, 2020.

--Co-Organizer, Plant Transgene Genetics Workshop. International Plant and Animal Genome Conference, San Diego. 2021

 --Member, Fellow Selection Committee, American Society of Horticulture Science, 2020, 2021, 2022.

 --Member of Scientific Committee and Chair of Poster Competition, the 8th International Horticulture Research Conference. Online, 2021.

--Co-Organizer, Plant Transgene Genetics Workshop. International Plant and Animal Genome Conference, San Diego. 2022.

 --Member, Scientific Committee, the 9th International Horticulture Research Conference, Wuhan, China, 2022**.**

--Co-Organizer, Plant Transgene Genetics Workshop. International Plant and Animal Genome Conference, San Diego. 2023.

--Co-Organizer, Plant Transgene Genetics Workshop. International Plant and Animal Genome Conference, San Diego. 2024.

**Teaching and Training Activities** (appointment: 80% research and 20% teaching)

**Courses taught**

**1998-2017**

 --1) Plant biotechnology (sole instructor, 3 credits).

 --2) Transgenic plant techniques (sole instructor, 3 credits, lab).

 --3) Biotechnology (co-taught, 3 credits).

 --4) Guest lectures in the Departments of Allied Science, Nutrition Science, Animal Science, Plant Science.

**2018-Present:**

 --1) SPPS 3255/PLSC 5255. Modern and Traditional Plant Breeding Techniques (3 credits, lab).

 --2) SPPS 3245/PLSC 5245. Plant Breeding and Biotechnology (3 credits).

**Scores of student evaluation of teaching**

In the last 25 years, Li's scores from student evaluations have consistently exceeded the university, college, and department averages in every evaluation. Examples:

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**2019: PLSC 5245/SPPS 3245 Plant Breeding and Biotechnology**

**What is your overall rating of Yi Li's teaching?**

 Course School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 4.8 5.0 4.4 4.5 4.1 4.3

**What is your overall rating of the course?**

 Course School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 4.5 5.0 4.2 4.3 3.9 4.0

**2020: PLSC-5255/SPPS 3255 Modern and Traditional Plant Breeding Techniques**

**What is your overall rating of Yi Li's teaching?**

 Course School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 4.7 5.0 4.5 4.6 4.3 4.4

**What is your overall rating of the course?**

 Course School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 4.7 5.0 4.2 4.4 4.1 4.2

**2021: PLSC 5245/SPPS 3245 Plant Breeding and Biotechnology**

**What is your overall rating of Yi Li's teaching?**

 Course Department School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 4.5 5.0 4.0 4.5 4.2 4.5 4.2 4.3

**What is your overall rating of the course?**

 Course Department School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 4.3 4.0 4.0 4.3 4.1 4.3 4.0 4.1

**2022: PLSC-5255/SPPS 3255 Modern and Traditional Plant Breeding Techniques**

**What is your overall rating of Yi Li's teaching?**

 Course School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 5.0 5.0 4.4 4.5 4.1 4.3

**What is your overall rating of the course?**

 Course School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 5.0 5.0 4.1 4.1 4.0 4.1

**2023:**  **PLSC 5245/SPPS 3245 Plant Breeding and Biotechnology**

**What is your overall rating of Yi Li's teaching?**

 Course Department School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 4.8 5.0 3.9 4.1 4.2 4.4 4.1 4.3

**What is your overall rating of the course?**

 Course Department School University

 Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median Mean Median

 4.5 4.5 3.8 4.0 4.1 4.2 4.0 4.1

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**Some testimonials from students**

--“It was a perfect class.” “Everything was perfect!” “It was great learning experience.”

--“Prof. Li promotes a very positive and professional learning environment in the classroom and encourages students to participate in a discourse to demonstrate what they have learned.”

--“We are very fortunate to have this course and Dr. Li at UConn.” “It helps me a lot.”

--“It was perfect course to understand plant breeding and biotechnology relations well.”

--“I have learnt a lot from the course and there is also much updated information about plant breeding. It is a very good course.”

--"Illustrations was very interesting it kind of makes you to read more and more about that topic.”

--“I thought overall it was a great course, that has the potential for actual application outside of the class.”

--“Teacher was very nice to answer any question and discussion.”

“He made the best of the way the class could be taught this semester.”

--“Prof. Li provided supplementary materials such as journal articles, videos, etc as well as described his own research experience which was highly relevant to the course.

--All references were very recent and helped shape my understanding of the current state of research in this field.”

--“Responded to in–depth questions with equally in–depth answers, and rarely gave unsatisfactory answers.”

--“Professor Li is an expert in the field. His teaching is great, and it is quite inspirational to have him as an instructor. I am very interested in diving deeper into the field of biotechnology!”

--“Give students a lot of opportunities to get involved in the course.”

--“Overall he did an excellent job and was very available to his students.”

--“This is a great class, I'm not sure how to make it better.”

--“I'm very happy I had the opportunity to take this course this semester.

--"We are very lucky to have him at UConn.”

--“This course presented information in a way that made graduate students learn new topics, while also being accessible enough that undergraduate students would appreciate the topics as well.”

-- “Excellent, interesting and engaging.” “Fabulous. It is a lot of interesting material, balanced with real world application.”

--“Discussion section as well as the students’ presentation were helpful.” “Dr. Li was able to offer so much information and actual expertise in the field.

--“He communicated clearly and effectively, giving examples of the concepts that are hard to understand. This helped me stay engaged and focused on the lecture material.”

--“Dr. Li was very clear with the important aspects of the topics covered in the course. The topics covered are complex, however they were approached in a way that made them accessible.”

--“Dr. Li goes over his presentations prior to class and re–evaluates them after, sending out updated ppts after they have been revised.”

--“I feel like this is a powerful course, with a lot of important information. It was presented and displayed very efficiently.

--“Course material was thorough, lot of information and many real life applications of the breeding technology was explained.”

**Student training**

--Advised 15 Ph.D. and 9 M.S. students (both completed and current) as their major advisor.

--Supervised 63 visiting and postdoctoral scientists.

--Acted as an associate advisor or committee member for 45 Ph.D. and M.S. students.

--Mentored 11 undergraduate students for their research or independent studies.

--Many of the trainees have achieved professional success. Some are well-recognized leaders in their fields, and at least 11 hold significant administrative roles, such as president, vice president, deans, associate deans, or directors at academic institutions.

**Media Coverage of Research Work.** Some examples of the media coverage include:

**--A seedless fruit technology (1998):** The technology garnered recognitions from USDA biotech New Network, other national and international media platforms.

**--Spaceflight experiments** (1995-1999): Li conducted 5 spaceflight experiments from 1995-1998 that generated many TV, newspaper and online media coverage. Example: https://www.courant.com/1998/12/29/orbital-agriculture/

**--The gene deletor technology**: This technology was published in 2007, having the potential to enhance the safety of genetically modified (GMO) plants for cultivation and consumption because it can eliminate all foreign transgenes in pollen, seeds, and fruits when the functions of transgenes are no longer necessary or when their presence may cause issues. Shortly after its publication, the technology received widespread coverage from tens of thousands of news, science, and technology websites, newspapers, and magazines worldwide in various languages, including English, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Polish, Italian, and others. The technology has been employed in crops such as rice and bananas, among others. Example of media coverage:

<https://www.isaaa.org/kc/cropbiotechupdate/article/default.asp?ID=1533>

**Samples of unsolicited comments online** shortly after the publication of the technology (The information below was gathered by students in the lab):

Dr. W. Sawahel (Professor, Molecular Biotechnology, National Research Center, Cairo, Egypt): “If this technique (gene deletor) is applied successfully to other crops, it could allow farmers to grow non-transgenic and fully viable plants using seeds or pollen from GM plants.” “The gene-deleting technique also provides an important step towards tackling the environmental and health issues raised against GM crops, including consumer concerns over GM food.”

Dr. Y. Savidan (Chairman of the International Agriculture Center, France): “The gene deletor technology constitutes a true revolution in the GMO world. This is certainly the news of the year if not of the past twenty years, since the first GMO was produced.”

Dr. K. Kopka (Global Internal Audit Manager at Procter & Gamble): "The ‘gene-deletor ‘ technology developed by Yi Li at the University of Connecticut opens huge hopes for future of plant biotechnology". "This is undoubtedly a great step in plant genetics."

Social Technologies (A Washington DC-based research and consulting firm in 2012 released a series of 12 briefs that shed light on the top areas for technology innovation through 2025. The brief on engineered agriculture, by futurist Mark Justman, is the tenth trend in the series. In that brief, the gene deletor technology has been highlighted:

"Gene deletion is a new approach to the genetic modification of plants that allows GM traits to be eliminated before the plant matures. In a sense, the modified genes will 'uninstall' themselves like a piece of software before plants reach a growth stage where GM traits can spread in the environment or before final harvest for human consumption. For a trait like herbicide resistance, gene deletor technology could allow the resistance genes to remain during the critical, early growth phases, but then delete them before plant maturation, fruiting, or pollen production. The mature plant would not have the genetically modified traits in harvested fruits or grains, and the risks of cross-pollination with other plants would be dramatically reduced.”

“Gene deletion technology addresses this concern by confining its genetic interventions to specific genetically modified plant traits, allowing farmers to reuse the seeds, but without the benefit of GM traits. Plants with a gene deletor mechanism would produce fertile seeds that could be planted by subsistence farmers, but these seeds would not express any of the GM traits.”

"Gene deletor technology would allow a compromise between intellectual property protection for GM traits, and subsistence farmers who rely on seed storage for next year's crop. It has the potential to be a win-win for both agribusiness and small-scale farmers."”

“This technology could allow biotech and agricultural companies to have a better chance of recouping the R&D costs on GM crops, potentially making it more cost-effective to develop new GM crops for niche markets. This could be especially important for the second- and third-generation GM crops that will offer unique characteristics, but as a result will have smaller potential markets for a given plant variety.”

**--The sterile, non-invasive cultivars of burning bush (Euonymus alatus) (2011-2012):** Burning bush plant is highly popular ($40 million/year in the US) in North America but also highly invasive because of its prolific seed production. The successful development of triploid burning bush cultivars should reduce the invasiveness of the plant. Nationwide, Li’s sterile burning bush has been publicized in hundreds of thousands newspapers, websites of TV and radio stations, and magazines, including USA Today, ABC, CBS, Fox News, NPR, PBS, Forbes, Bloomberg Business Week, USA News, Yahoo News, Times Union, News Times, USA World News, Science Daily, Seattle Times, St. Louis Today, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Los Angeles News, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury, Chicago Chronicle, Chicago Sun-Times News, Boston Globe Philadelphia Inquirer, Houston Chronicle, Baltimore Sun, Portland Oregonian, Salt Lake City Deseret News. “Horticulture experts say the newly published findings by the Li Lab could be a boon for landscapers and gardeners, who've pushed annual sales of burning bush — also known as winged Euonymus alatus — past $40 million nationwide (an Associated Press article published on August 21, 2011). Examples: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/invasive-burning-bush-getting-genetic-makeover> and https://www.boston.com/real-estate/real-estate-news/2020/09/29/get-rid-of-enemy-plants-in-your-backyard/

**Some Major Metro Newspapers (**a partial list and also many local ones are not included. The information below was gathered by a student in the lab):

**Arizona:** Arizona Republic, St. Petersburg Times. **California:** Los Angeles News, Oakland Tribune Sacramento Bee, San Diego Union-Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, Santa Cruz Sentinel. Colorado: Denver News, Denver Monitor. **Connecticut:** Hartford Currant, Stamford Advocate, Stanford Monitor. **District of Columbia:** Washington Times, Washington D.C. News. **Florida:** Miami Herald, Palm Beach Post, The Florida News Journal. Georgia: Atlanta Journal-Constitution. **Illinois:** Chicago Chronicle, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago News, Chicago Tribune. **Kentucky:** Lexington Herald-Leader. **Louisiana:** New Orleans Times-Picayune. **Maryland:** Baltimore Sun, Cumberland Times-News, Rockville Montgomery Journal, Belleville News-Democrat. **Massachusetts:** Boston Globe, Boston News. Michigan: Muskegon Chronicle. **Minnesota:** Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune. **Missouri:** Kansas City Star, St. Louis Today, St. Louis Post-Dispatch. **Nevada:** Las Vegas Sun. **New Jersey:** Newark Star-Ledger. **New York:** Albany Democrat Herald, Buffalo News, Long Island News, New York Post, New York News, Syracuse Post-Standard, Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. **North Carolina:** Charlotte Observer, Raleigh News & Observer. **Ohio:** Cincinnati Enquirer, Columbus Telegram, Cincinnati Post, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cleveland-Akron. **Oklahoma:** Oklahoma City Oklahoman. **Oregon:** Portland Oregonian. **Pennsylvania:** The Detroit News online, The Philadelphia Inquirer. South Carolina: The Sun News. **Texas:** Houston Chronicle, Albuquerque Express, Dallas - Fort Worth, Dallas - Fort Worth News, Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, San Antonio Express-News, El Paso Times. **Utah:** Salt Lake City Deseret News. **Virginia:** USA Today, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Richmond Times-Dispatch. **Washington:** Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Seattle Times, The Examiner. **Wisconsin:** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

**--Transgene-free plant gene editing (2018):** A method utilizing Agrobacterium-mediated transient expression for producing transgene-free gene-edited plants has been commented as an article that "could help change the world" by Editors-in-Chief of Springer-Nature's journals (2018) (<https://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/campaigns/change-the-world/life-sciences-biomedicine?from=message&isappinstalled=0>). The method has been covered by various online scientific news vehicles, example: https://www.isaaa.org/kc/cropbiotechupdate/article/default.asp?ID=16799

**--A grafting improvement technology** (2022): Example: https://phys.org/news/2021-05-technology-grafting.html

**--** **Climate-smart, low-maintenance lawn grass varieties** for drastically reduced mowing frequency, no or reduced fertilizer, and irrigation (2023): Examples: <https://athleticturf.net/new-turfgrass-varieties-developed-by-uconn-researcher-require-less-maintenance/> and <https://www.landscapemanagement.net/new-turfgrass-varieties-developed-by-uconn-researcher-require-less-maintenance/>

**--Plant gene editing:**

--NBC TV Interview: UConn Gene Editing Research Could Benefit Citrus Industry [https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/UConn-Gene-Editing-Research-Could-Benefit-Citrus-Industry-485967231.html. 2017](https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/UConn-Gene-Editing-Research-Could-Benefit-Citrus-Industry-485967231.html.%202017)

--"Nature” news: Li’s Comments on Russia's genome editing initiative were solicited and published in a news article in the prestigious scientific journal "Nature". <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01519-6> 2019

--"Orange Innovation: Creating Citrus Disease Resistance" highlighting research contributions to the citrus industry. (<https://www.scientia.global/wp-content/uploads/Gmitter_Deng_Li/Gmitter_Deng_Li.pdf> 2020

--Tomato gene editing: <https://www.seedworld.com/will-tomatoes-help-uncover-unintended-effects-of-gene-editing/> 2023; <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/about-nifa/impacts/uconn-researchers-studying-unintended-effects-gene-editing-tomatoes> 2023

**Other items:**

**Comments from experts in the filed regarding the book of “Plant Biotechnology in Ornamental Horticulture”**

**--Dr. Lee D. Carlson,** Baltimore, Maryland. “The interested reader is expected to have a strong background in the molecular biology of plants, but even those not expert in this area, such as this reviewer, can read most of the articles without too much difficulty. A few of the authors recognize that the genetic engineering of ornamental horticulture is still in its infancy, but they also look forward to the day when the techniques, or others similar to them, will be applied on such a scale as to make them cost effective and accessible to both the amateur and professional horticulturist. Genetic engineering can be thought of as a collection of strategies that alter the metabolism and phenotypes of plant species. The reader will encounter many of these strategies in this book, and it is very engaging reading.” For additional comments from Dr. Lee, please click: [https://www.amazon.com/Plant-Biotechnology-Ornamental-Horticulture-Yi/product-reviews/156022150X/ref=cm\_cr\_arp\_d\_show\_all?ie=UTF8&showViewpoints=1&reviewerType=all\_reviews&pageNumber=1](https://www.amazon.com/Plant-Biotechnology-Ornamental-Horticulture-Yi/product-reviews/156022150X/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_show_all?ie=UTF8&showViewpoints=1&reviewerType=all_reviews&pageNumber=1)

**--Dr. Michael E. Horn,** Director, Cell & Molecular Biology, Phyton Biotech Inc. “An extraordinary collection.. . . Each chapter is well written by a world authority on the subject matter. The editors have done an excellent job keeping a tight focus on each subject.”

**--Dr. Rongda Qu**, Professor, North Carolina State University.: “Although many books have been published dealing with plant biotechnology and transgenic plants, the ones that focus on ornamental plants are rare. This book fills the gap, and should be a very useful reference for graduate students, faculty and industrial scientists working in and outside the field.”

**--Dr. Alan G. Smith,** Professor, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN: "A through review of the research, which employs genetic engineering strategies and biotechnology for ornamental crop improvement.” “Of interest to any researcher involved in improving horticultural crops, such as gene introduction and increasing resistance to pests and environmental stress.”

**Textbooks Directly Incorporating Li's Scientific Discoveries (a partial list):**

 --"Plant Physiology" by Taiz & Zeiger.

 --“Plant Physiology” (in Chinese) by Xie Zhou.

 --"Pflanzen Pysiologie" (in German) by Schopfer & Brennicke.

 --"Plant Growth and Development - Hormones and Environment" by Srivastava.

 --"Plant Growth and Development - A Molecular Approach" by Fosket.

 --"Plant Hormones – Physiology, Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology" by Davies.

 --"Plant Hormones Biosynthesis, Signal Transduction, Action" by Davies.