

## Preface

This collection of core articles from Volume 118 of *Methods in Enzymology* includes current techniques used in plant molecular biology and genetics. The emphasis is on the isolation and characterization of nuclear, chloroplast, and mitochondrial nucleic acids and the factors and systems involved in transcription and gene expression. The molecular genetic and biological tools for analysis of the chloroplast, mitochondrial, and nuclear genomes in plants are an important part of this collection. Procedures for the isolation of cell walls, chloroplast membranes, and membrane proteins are also included. Current techniques to carry out plant cell culture and protoplast formation are described as are methods for gene and organelle transfer. The detection of DNA and RNA viruses by molecular probes or ELISA assays and the cloning and transcription of viral RNA complete the volume.

Where a cross reference is given to a volume and paper in this series, it refers to the *Methods in Enzymology* series. Where only volumes and paper numbers are referred to, the volumes too are those in the *Methods in Enzymology* series.

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