

Preface

Although there is a copious supply of cell biology textbooks, most are animal-oriented. The few plant cell biology textbooks are, in the main, not textbooks but expensive, methods-oriented, research volumes. Thus, there is need for a plant cell biology textbook for university undergraduates.

This textbook stresses concepts and is inquiry-oriented. To this end, there is extensive use of original research literature. As we live in an era of literature explosion, one must be selective. These judgements will naturally vary with the investigator. In establishing significance the input of colleagues was considered.

In addition to provision of select research literature, this volume presents citations and summaries of certain laboratory methods. In this connection, the textbook stresses quantitative data to enhance the student's analytical abilities. Thus, the volume contains computer-spread sheets and references to statistical packages, e.g. Harvard Graphics and Statistica.

In short, while the volume contains basic facts, the intent is to gain an appreciation for the scientific method and major research trends in plant cell biology.

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