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The Cover

Cover figure is reproduced from Figure 2 from the review by Yidan Ouyang, Yao-Guang Liu and Qifa Zhang and shows evolutionary dynamics of the three varietal groups. Differentiation caused by geographical adaptation gradually builds up the constriction of gene flow eventually leading to the development of reproductive barriers between the isolated groups, referred to as two subspecies *indica* and *japonica* (left). Widely compatible varieties (WCVs) enable gene flow between the subspecies by producing fertile hybrids with both subspecies, thus providing genetic coherence at the species level (right).

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The subject of plant biology is divided into seven sections, each of which is reviewed once a year. Each issue contains one or two of the sections, and the amount of space devoted to each section is related to its importance.

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