



# Economics of Saffron and Market Opportunities

North American Center



For Saffron Research & Development

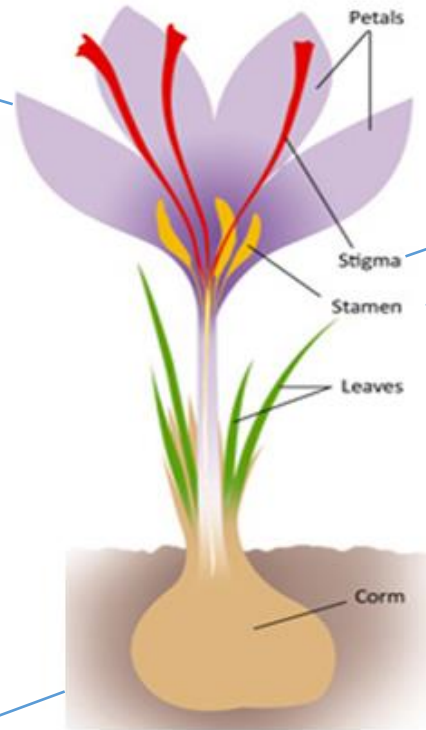


# Products

???



Petals

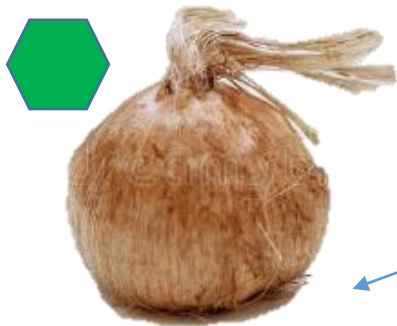


Stigmas



Stamens

???



Corms

# Saffron Stigmas

- Average weight of dry saffron stigmas/flower = **0.0055 gram**
- **182 saffron flowers = 1 gram dry saffron**
- **~20 minutes** to pick up 182 flowers
- **~40 minutes** to separate stigmas from petals and stamens
- **60 minutes to produce one gram of dry saffron**





# Saffron Corms



August Yr. 1  
Planting Date

Mother Corm



August Yr. 2

Secondary Corms



August Yr. 3

Market Corms



# Revenue/0.25 acre

Corn density:  
9 corms/sq.ft.

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Costs/0.25 acre

Year 1	19,835
Year 2	5,581
Year 3	6,413
Year 4	4,749
Year 5	3,084

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Net Revenue/0.25 acre

Year 1	-13,302
Year 2	14,020
Year 3	16,455
Year 4	11,586
Year 5	6,716
	+
	29,000



~\$35,000



# All that Glitters is NOT Gold!

Saffron is the most frequently adulterated spice in the world.

- “Mexican Saffron” is not the real thing.
- It is safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*), a frequent filler or fraudulent product.





Thanks for your interest



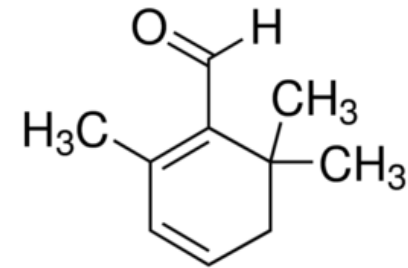
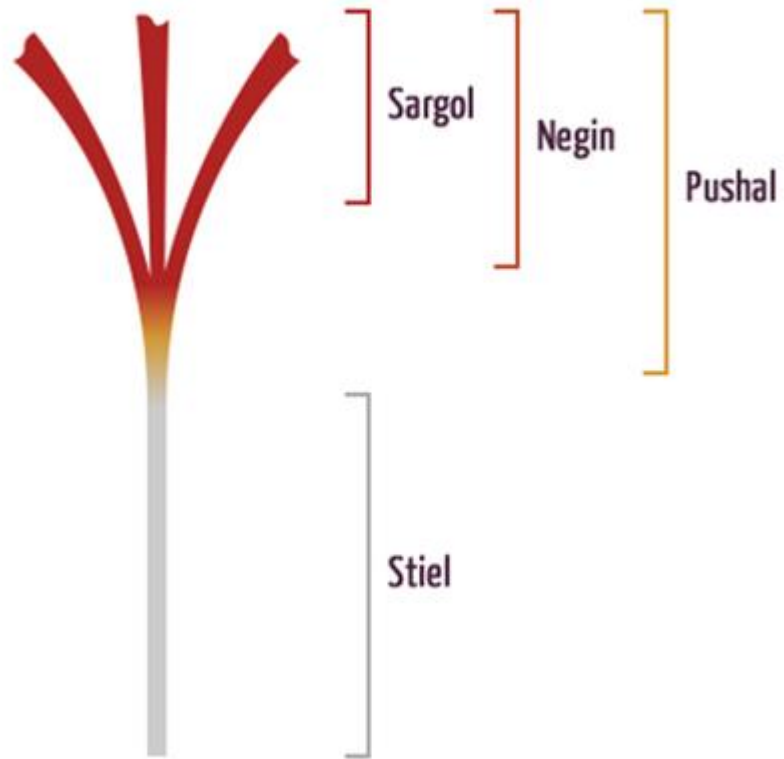
The North American Center for  
Saffron Research & Development

<http://www.uvm.edu/~saffron/>

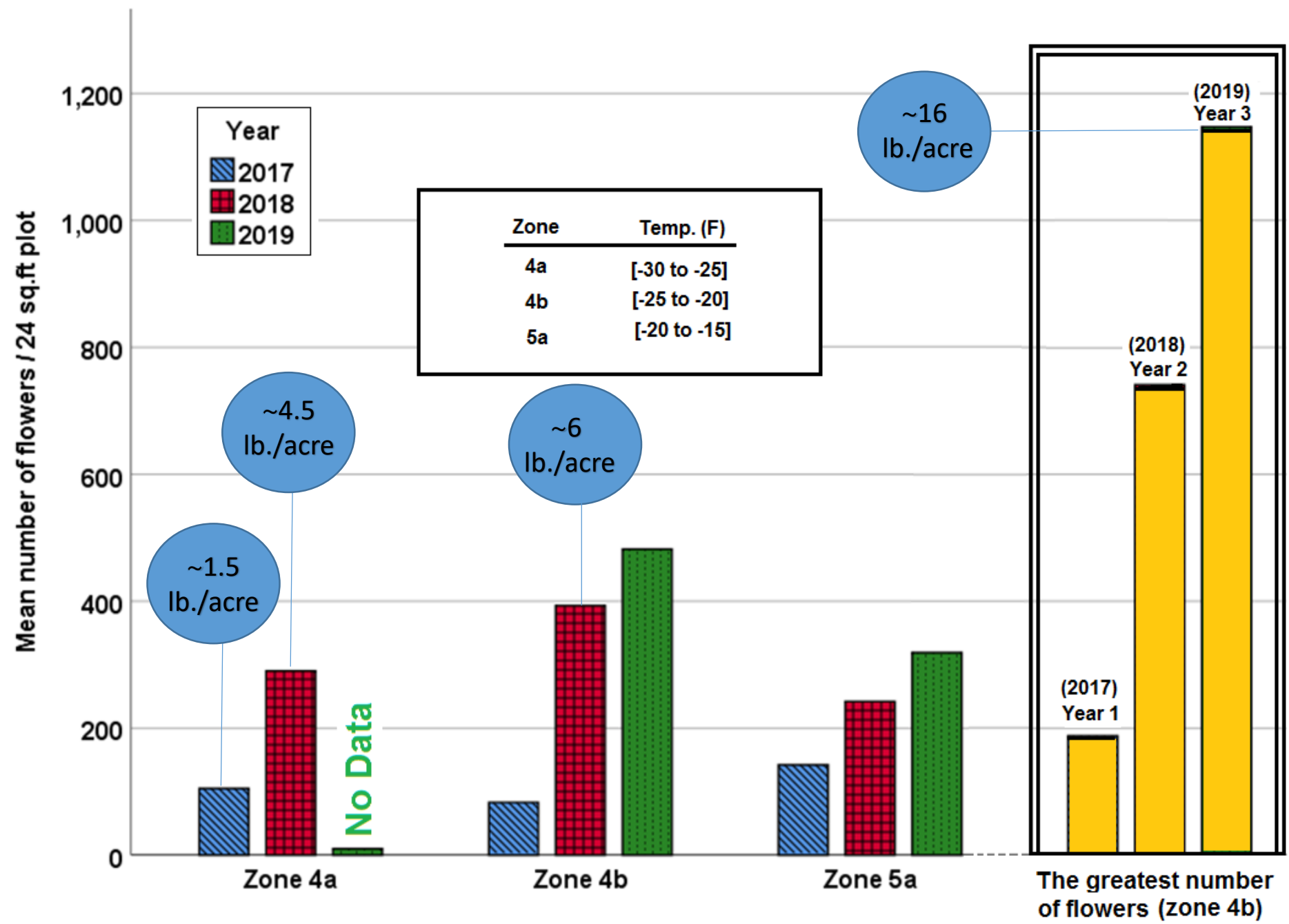
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# Promote Your Market



# Yield









# Saffron production in the crates

- ✓ Easy to move so growers can start other high-value crops like tomatoes in spring
- ✓ Inexpensive (often free) and readily available
- ✓ Suitable depth for growing saffron
- ✓ Light weight but sturdy and durable
- ✓ Protect corms from rodent predation

