

A Workshop for Growers, Marketers & Researchers



Saffron:

Perfecting Production & Market Opportunities

Thursday, March 12, 2020
Burlington, VT

Brought to you by
*North American Center for
Saffron Research and Development*

The University of Vermont (UVM)
Entomology Research Laboratory
Burlington, VT USA

(Pictures from Golden Thread Farm, Stowe, VT)

Share this brochure with your staff and other growers.

PROGRAM

- 8:00 - 9:00 **Registration**
- 9:00 - 9:15 **Welcome: Dr. Suresh Garimella, President of UVM**
- 9:15 - 9:30 **Saffron 101. A Refresher**
Arash Ghalegolabbehbahani, Univ. of Vermont
Saffron biology and crop cycle background information
- 9:30 - 10:00 **Preparing your Saffron Beds to Reduce Weeds**
Sid Bosworth, UVM Extension, Plant & Soil Science
Cover cropping for weed prevention and fertility
- 10:00 - 10:40 **Saffron Production in the Field and Low Tunnels with Different Corm Densities**
Rahmatallah Gheshm, Univ. of Rhode Island
Is it better to grow saffron in the field or in low tunnels?
- 10:40 - 11:00 **Coffee Break (Coffee & Tea)**
- 11:00 - 12:00 **Post-harvest Handling of Saffron for Safety & Quality**
Chris Callahan & Hans Estrin, UVM Extension
What should growers know to handle saffron for marketing?
- 12:00 - 12:45 **Lunch** (Time to chat with growers and experts and view poster presentations)
- 12:45 - 1:45 **Grower-to-Grower Forum & Informational Videos**
How does Your Saffron Grow? Discussion about yields, diseases, rodents, weeds and more.
Bruce L. Parker, facilitator, UVM
Brian Leven, Golden Thread Farm, Stowe, VT
Patti & John Padua, Cobble Creek Nursery, Monkton, VT
Jeff Marsteller, Cozy Acres, North Yarmouth, ME
- 1:45 - 2:15 **Organic Saffron Certification**
Gregg Stevens, NOFA VT
What does it take to certify your saffron as organic?
- 2:15 - 3:00 **Saffron as an Anti-inflammatory & Anti-oxidant Supplement**
Hassan Ashktorab, Howard University Cancer Center.
Hear about research advances on medicinal uses for saffron.
- 3:00 - 4:00 **Economics of Saffron & Market Opportunities**
Now that we have some product, how do we sell it?
Arash Ghalegolabbehbahani, facilitator, Univ. of Vermont
Parker Shorey, Ferrisburgh, VT & NYC
Brian Leven, Golden Thread Farm, Stowe, VT
- 4:00 - 4:15 **What Does the Future Hold?**
Margaret Skinner, Arash Ghalegolabbehbahani & Bruce L. Parker, Univ. of Vermont

WELCOME to our 2020 Workshop!

The *North American Center for Saffron Research & Development* is a collaboration among growers, researchers and marketers involved with saffron in the US and beyond. This event will provide information about how to grow, handle and market saffron, and updates on current research. It is for anyone who is growing, selling or studying saffron now or hopes to in the future.

The Major Speakers:

Hassan Ashktorab, Prof., **Howard Univ.**, Dept. of Medicine, Wash., D.C., will talk about his work on saffron's medicinal effects.

Dan Baker, Assoc. Prof., **UVM CDAE**, focuses on applied community development in Vermont and internationally. Saffron cultivation in the Northeast is a new interest.

Sid Bosworth, **Agronomist**, Ext. Prof., **UVM**, has over 35 years of experience with field/forage crop management. He will share information on weed control in saffron.

Chris Callahan, **UVM Extension Ag Engineering & Hans Estrin (UVM Extension Produce Safety)**. Chris focuses on engineering to enhance ag. production. Hans runs VT-CAPS, a VT specific community accreditation program. Both are involved with the UVM Produce Safety Program.

Rahmatallah Gheshm, Post doc, **Univ. of Rhode Island**, has many years of experience growing saffron in Iran, and has done research at URI for 3 years.

Arash Ghalehgolabbehbahani, Research Assoc., **UVM**, has been working on several research projects to develop the potential of growing saffron for farmers.

Brian Leven, **Golden Thread Farm**, has been growing saffron for 3 years in the field and within high tunnels in northern VT.

Jeff Marstaller, **Cozy Acres Greenhouses** produces greenhouse ornamentals, and 3 years ago started growing saffron in tubs in his greenhouse in North Yarmouth, ME.

Patti & John Padua, Cobble Creek Nursery, have been growing saffron in the field for 3 years to diversify their nursery production, and their yields keep growing.

Parker Shorey, **Lemonfair Saffron**, VT saffron grower and marketer, launched his saffron company in Dec. 2019, selling saffron online and in NYC.

Gregg Stevens, Senior Certification Spec., **NOFAVT**, will discuss what is involved with certifying saffron as organic for Vermont.

Workshop Organizers:

**M. Skinner, B.L. Parker C. Sullivan, A. Davari, P. Reese,
M.O. Tracy & A. Ghalehgolabbehbahani**

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For more about our research go to:

<https://www.uvm.edu/~Saffron>

Individuals requesting a disability-related accommodation to participate should call Cheryl Sullivan: 802-656-5434 by March 1, 2020.

Workshop Sponsors: *UVM College of Agric. & Life Sci., UVM Ext. USDA Hatch Prog.; Amer. Herbal Products Assoc., Peck Solar, Amer. Meadows, Golden Thread Farm, Lemonfair Saffron, VT Agency of Agric., Saharkbiz International, UVM Iranian Student Association.*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Where and When:

March 12, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Davis Center, Silver Maple Ballroom, 4th floor
UVM Campus, 590 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05405

On-line attendance is also an available option.

Attend on-site: \$80 (incl. handouts, coffee, UVM handling fees) plus parking. Bring your lunch or add \$12 for lunch by UVM (pizza, salad, drinks, dessert).

Attend On-line: \$87 (incl. handouts, video cost & handling fees).

To ensure a place, register early. Pre-registration required.

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER ONLINE!

By March 4, 2020

To register online go to:

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/saffronworkshop2020>

If on-line registration presents a problem for you, contact:

Cheryl Sullivan, Email: cfrank@uvm.edu; Tel: 1-802-656-5434.

Sorry NO REFUNDS.

Registrants will receive notice of their place in the workshop, a map with directions, and information about parking and shuttle services.

Need a place to stay on March 11 and 12? Twenty rooms have been reserved at discount rates for attendees at three nearby hotels. Call to make reservations and give them the special group name or number for the Saffron Workshop.

Best Western: Tel: 1-802-863-1125. 1076 Williston Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403. \$84/night + tax & fees, **reserve by Feb. 28**. Call for reservations. **Group #:3262** (UVM Saffron Workshop)

Holiday Inn: Tel: 1-802-863-6363. 1068 Williston, Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403. \$89/night + tax & fees, **reserve by Feb. 11**. **Group name: USW** (UVM Saffron Workshop).

La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham: Tel: 1-802-865-3400. 1285 Williston, Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403. \$76.50/night + tax & fees, **reserve by Feb. 20**. **Group name: Saffron Workshop**. Call Group Desk at 1-800-753-3757.

These hotels are 5 minutes from the airport, and all offer free airport shuttle services. Additional information on transport to the workshop site will be sent to registrants. View on-campus visitor parking info at:

<https://www.uvm.edu/transportation/visitor-parking>

Questions? Call Cheryl Sullivan at 1-802-656-5434; Fax: 1-802-656-5441 or Email: cfrank@uvm.edu

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