#### **Growing Saffron in Bins in Maine**

Jeff Marstaller Cozy Acres Greenhouses Saffron Conference, March 12, 2020































Lined inside and out with landscape fabric to prevent algae and UV issues





#### Two parts 'loam' and 1 part compost









# 143 corms to the bin (10/sq ft)



2" potting soil to bury weed seeds







| Saffron Start-up Expenses - 2017 |                                    |                             |                  |                |            |                     |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------|
| Item                             | Number of Units or Procedure       | Notes                       | Material Expense | Labor at \$20/ | Total Cost | Unit Cost / planter |
| Bins                             | 10 IBCs to make 20 planters        | To be cut in half           | 260              | 0              | \$260      | 13                  |
|                                  | Traveling for IBCs (Sanford, ME)   | Trailer Rental              | 43               | 100            | \$143      | 7.15                |
|                                  | Cutting IBCs in half               | w/ Grinder and Sawzall      | 0                | 80             | \$80       | 4                   |
|                                  | Cleaning IBCs                      | Power Washer                | 3                | 80             | \$83       | 4.15                |
|                                  | Fabric & Set-up                    | Fabric & 1/2 filled w/ soil | 160              | 140            | \$300      | 15                  |
|                                  | Soil - total needed                | 4 loam; 3 compost           | 150              | 100            | \$250      | 12.5                |
|                                  | Weed-free Potting Soil for Surface | 1/2 bag/planter             | 140              | 0              | \$140      | 7                   |
|                                  | Pallets for 10 inverted tops       | 10 poly pallets             | 117.5            | 0              | \$118      | 5.9                 |
| Corms                            | 3000 corms                         | 10+ cm, non-organic         | 1013             | 0              | \$1,013    | 50.65               |
| Planting                         | 150 corms/bin X 20 bins            |                             | 0                | 200            | \$200      | 10                  |
|                                  |                                    |                             |                  |                |            |                     |
| NOTES                            | IBC = Intermediate Bulk Container  |                             | 1886.5           | 700            | \$2,587    | 129.35              |
|                                  | IBCs are 275 gallon size           |                             | Total Materials  | Total Labor    | Total Cost | Unit Cost           |
|                                  | Each planter is 14 sq ft           |                             |                  |                |            |                     |
|                                  |                                    |                             |                  |                |            |                     |

### 4-6 weeks after planting of corms





### Leaves keep growing throughout winter





## Leaves beginning to fail in April

### First summer clearing the dead leaves



### **Cluster of daughter corms first summer**



# December second winter

#### **December second winter**



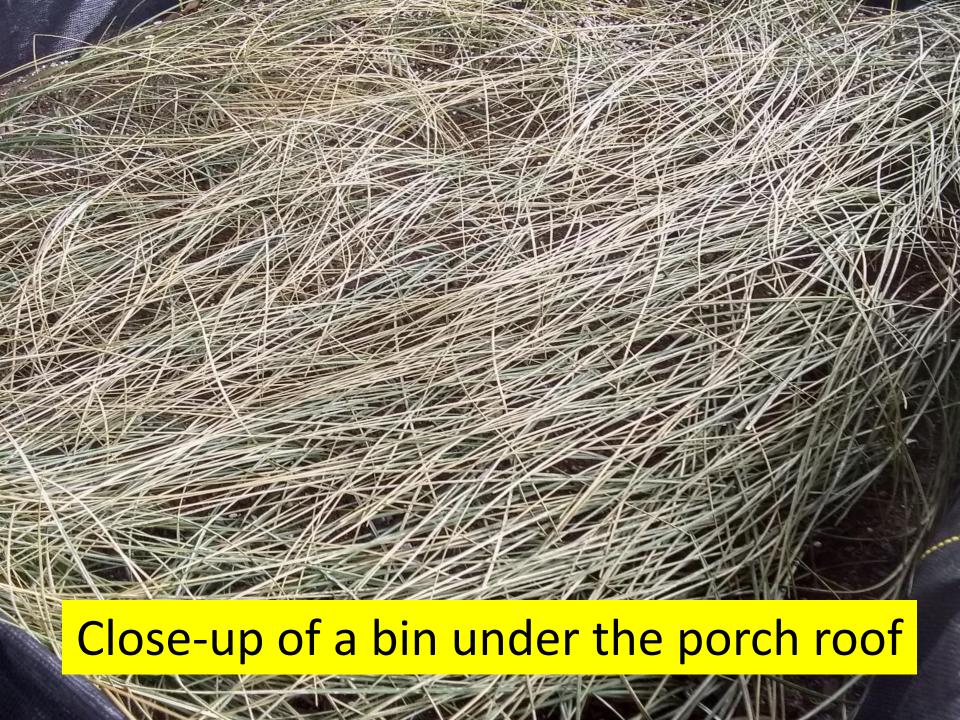
## 5 bins placed outside for the winter

## Close-up of outside bins

### 5 bins placed inside open door of barn

## Close-up of bins inside barn







### 5 bins were in a never freezing greenhouse



Close-up of a bin that never reached freezing Vatered though the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each mon<sup>t</sup>

## Only issue...a digger wasp

