How to Balance your Saffron

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Saffron, sometimes referred to as "red gold" is the most expensive spice of the world, reported to sell for more than $5,000 per pound. Many growers around North America are growing saffron and produce enough to sell it. Because of the high value of this lucrative crop, precise measurement (up to 0.01 grams or 0.001 grams in readability) is extremely important. Because saffron is often sold in increments of 0.25 g or less, it is essential that the balance used to weigh it measures weights as small as that. Growers have asked us which scales (or balance) should they purchase for their saffron business. Like everything, it all depends… In general, the more expensive scales measure more precisely. Growers will have to consider how much they wish to invest in their business. We have reviewed various products on the web, read the reviews and considered the ratings. Below is a summary of our findings, including a range of prices from around $13 to $150 (US$). This is not an endorsement of any one product, but serves as a place to start when considering a purchase.

1-KitchenTour Digital Kitchen Scale.

This highly ranked scale has a 4.4/5 satisfaction rating on the retailer website. It can measure samples from 0.05 to 500 grams, with a resolution of 0.01 grams. This is a good value for $14.99 (US) from Amazon.

Fig 1. KitchenTour Digital Kitchen Scale
http://a.co/d/h10WyD6

2-Horizon ACCT-500 Digital Precision Jewelry Scale.

This digital scale can weigh samples from 0.05 to 500 grams and is precise to 0.01 grams. It includes a plastic tray which can be handy for weighing out saffron. It lists for ~$17 (US) on Amazon.

Fig 2. Horizon ACCT-500 Digital Precision Jewelry Scale http://a.co/d/dFkohpu

3-Weigh Gram Pocket Scale.

This simple, low-cost product allows you to way up to 100 g and is accurate to 0.01 g. The price is ~$13 (US) on the Amazon and has a 4.5 customer rating.

Fig 3. Weigh Gram Pocket Scale
https://www.amazon.com/Weigh-Gram-Digital-Jewelry-Kitchen/dp/B06Y61YW7S/ref=sxin_15_ac_d_rm?ac_md=0-0-cHJlY2lzaW9uIHNjYWxl-ac_d_rm_rm_rm&cv_ct_cx=precision+scale&dchild=1&keywords=precision+scale&pd_rd_i=B06Y61YW7S&pd_rd_r=fac28275-8e29-46c0-bdc0-b315a60e1b9c&pd_rd_w=HvdHj&pd_rd_wg=48wYJ&pf_rd_p=de2528a5-aaee-45ae-afe7-277ddc135414&pf_rd_r=QRRGG3VW6B76TBB6WKG6&psc=1&qid=1629489776&sr=1-1-12d4272d-8adb-4121-8624-135149aa9081

4-Ohaus – YA102 Gold Series Pocket Scale.

This scale has a measuring capacity of 100 grams and a readability of 0.01 grams. It lists at $68-110 (US) and has a customer satisfaction rating of 4 on Amazon.

Fig 4. Ohaus YA102 Pocket Scale
https://www.affordablescales.com/ohaus/ya/

5-FLB FORELIBRA Lab Scale.

This scale can measure up to 2,000 grams at an accuracy of 0.01 grams. It comes with a stainless steel weighing pan. It lists for $89.99 (US) on Amazon.

Fig 5. Lorelibra Lab Scale
https://www.amazon.com/FLB-FORELIBRA-Electronic-Analytical-Industrial/dp/B094JV6X6N/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=jewelry%2Bscales&qid=1629489170&sr=8-2-spons&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUExTFdZNlBUUzBHQlM5JmVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwNzc2MzAwMkhVWkdSWEwyVU1ERiZlbmNyeXB0ZWRBZElkPUEwMTE4NjMyMkdaMEtSRU4xVjE2WSZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPXNwX2F0ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU&th=1

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