

Saffron: A Golden Opportunity for Diversified Farmers

What is it?

- **Most expensive spice** in the world (\$3,000-9,000/lb)
- Dry stigmas of a **fall blooming crocus** (*Crocus sativus*)
- Used as a culinary spice or medicinal herb
- Hardy to USDA **coldhardiness zone 4**
- Commonly grown in West/Central Asia & Mediterranean region
- **Hundreds in the US are growing it** for the first time in high tunnels and the field



Saffron by the Numbers

3 stigmas: number produced by 1 saffron crocus flower

46 tons: annual imports into the US

4,000 blooms = 1 oz or 28.4 grams of dry saffron

8 lb = average saffron yield/ha (2.5 acres)

\$25-100 = retail price per gram in 2018

\$223,000- over \$1 million = potential annual revenue/acre

