North American Center

for Saffron Research & Development
https://www.uvm.edu/~saffron/

A Workshop for Growers, Marketers & Researchers

Keep Moving Forward with Saffron

10th Annual Saffron Workshop

Thursday, April 2, 2026 10:00 to 15:30 Eastern Daylight Time

University of Vermont (UVM), Burlington, VT USA **ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

10:00 – 10:15	Welcome, Introductions and Instructions	Margaret Skinner, UVM Saffron Center Arash Ghalehgolabbehbahani, Rodale Institute
10:15 – 10:35	The Origin of Saffron	Ramin Ganeshram
10:35 – 10:55	Enhancing Saffron Productivity Through Organic Soil Enrichment	Mustapha Haidar, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
10:55 – 11:25	Saffron Growing Trends: 2 Case Studies	Scott Case, Patchwork Farm Richard Bamford, UVM Saffron Center
11:25 – 11:45	Saffron Planting Mechanization: Update	Eric Meltzer & Bryon Boos, PA Saffron Entrepreneurs
11:45 – 12:20	Grower Open Forum on Saffron Cultivation and Drying	Arash Ghalehgolabbehbahani, Rodale Institute
12:20 – 12:30	Break	
12:30 – 13:00	Saffron Testing Overview	John Edwards, Process NMR Associates
13:00 – 13:20	The ISO Testing Method Explained	Shadia Saharkhiz, Saharkhiz Saffron
13:20 – 13:40	Evaluating Saffron's Potential Across New Mexico: Insights from 2023–2025 Research	Saeid Zehtab Salmasi, New Mexico State University
13:40 – 13:55	Weed Management with Tarps	Eva Kennebrew, USDA ARS, ORISE Researcher
13:55 – 14:15	Genetic Variation of Saffron	Eric von Wettberg, Univ. of Vermont
14:15 – 14:40	Marketing Saffron Big Time	Farhad Saharkhiz, Saharkhiz Saffron
14:40 – 15:15	Grower to Grower Exchange on Marketing Options	Open discussion about the future of saffron in North America and Beyond
16:15 – 16:30	Closing Comments	Margaret Skinner, UVM Saffron Center Arash Ghalehgolabbehbahani, Rodale Institute

This event was supported in part by the Univ. of VT College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Extension System; Rodale Institute; USDA Hatch Program and Roco Saffron, and others to be announced.

The University of Vermont

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