
**Spices — Saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.) —
Part 1:
Specification**

Épices — Safran (Crocus sativus L.) —

Partie 1: Spécifications

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ISO 3632-1:2011

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Foreword

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International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 3632-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Spices, culinary herbs and condiments*.

This second edition cancels and replaces ISO/TS 3632-1:2003, which has been technically revised.

ISO 3632 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Spices — Saffron* (*Crocus sativus L.*):

— *Part 1: Specification*

— *Part 2: Test methods*

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Spices — Saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.) —

Part 1: Specification

1 Scope

This part of ISO 3632 establishes specifications for dried saffron obtained from the pistils of *Crocus sativus* L. flowers.

It applies to saffron in both of the following forms:

- a) filaments and cut filaments;
- b) powder.

NOTE The saffron plant is depicted in Figure 1, the saffron flower in Figures 2 and 3, the saffron pistil in Figure 4, and some examples of floral waste in Figure 5.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- ISO 928, *Spices and condiments — Determination of total ash*
- ISO 930, *Spices and condiments — Determination of acid-insoluble ash*
- ISO 941, *Spices and condiments — Determination of cold water-soluble extract*
- ISO 948, *Spices and condiments — Sampling*
- ISO 3632-2, *Spices — Saffron (Crocus sativus L.) — Part 2: Test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 3632-2 and the following apply.

3.1

stigma

section of the aerial part of the pistil

EXAMPLE In the *Crocus sativus* L. flower, the stigma is dark red in colour and trumpet shaped, serrated or indented at the top and joined to the style at the end.

NOTE See Figure 4.

3.2

style

part of the pistil between the stigma and the ovary

NOTE See Figure 4.

3.3

stamen

male reproductive organ of a flower

NOTE In the *Crocus sativus* L. flower, stamens are yellow.

3.4

extraneous matter

all matter which belongs to a plant but which is not retained for use as a spice or herb

EXAMPLE In the *Crocus sativus* L. flower, the origin of extraneous matter can be floral waste (e.g. petals, separated styles, stamen, pollen grains and ovary parts) and plant waste which is waste other than floral waste.

3.5

foreign matter

all matter that is not part of the plant to which the spice or herb belongs

EXAMPLE In the *Crocus sativus* L. flower, the origin of foreign matter can be animal (e.g. living insects, dead insects, fragments of insects, contamination from rodents) or non-animal foreign matter. Non-animal foreign matter can be from other plants (e.g. other vegetable matters, leaves, stems, straw) or others (e.g. mineral, plastic).

3.6

saffron in filaments

dried stigmas with a part of style of the *Crocus sativus* L. flower

NOTE The stigmas can be separated or joined in groups of two or three at the tip of a part of the style which is yellow-white in colour (about 20 mm to 40 mm in length).

3.7

saffron in cut filaments

dried stigmas of the *Crocus sativus* L. flower (with styles removed completely detached from each other)

3.8

saffron in powder form

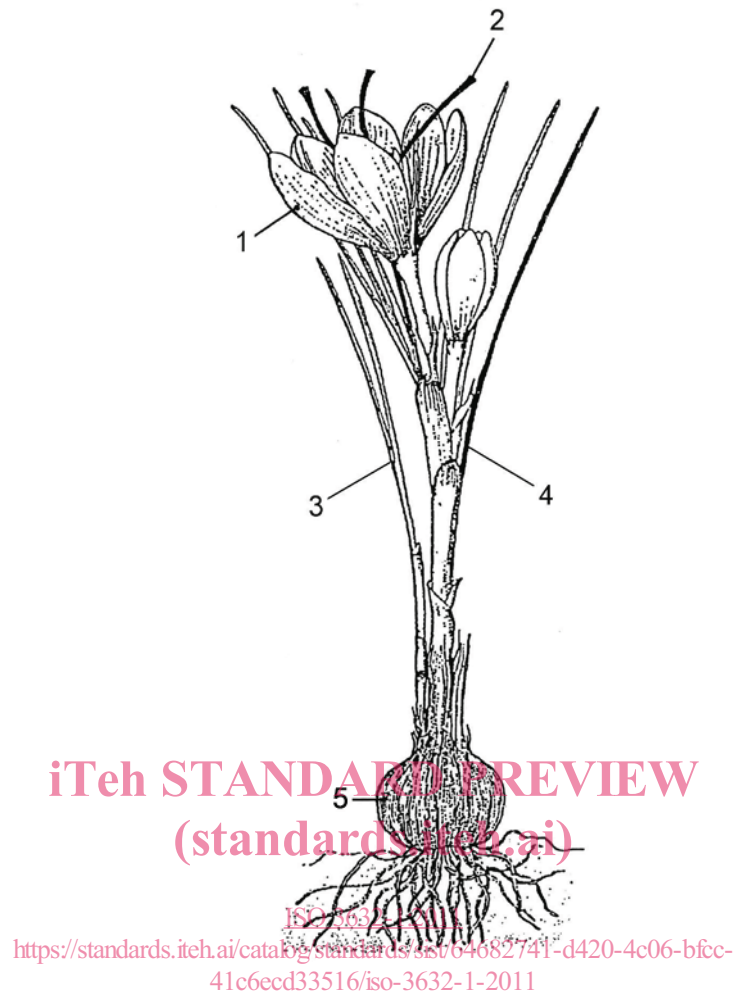
particles obtained by crushing the filaments of the *Crocus sativus* L. flower

NOTE The particle size can vary according to the agreement between the buyer and the seller.

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Key

- 1 flower
- 2 pistil
- 3 perianth
- 4 radical leaves
- 5 corn

Figure 1 — Saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.) plant

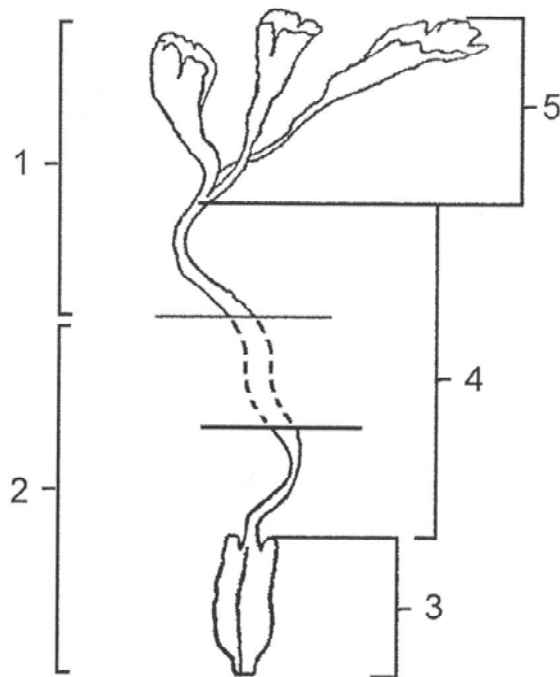


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Figure 2 — Saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.) flower



Figure 3 — Whole saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.) flower (longitudinal cut)



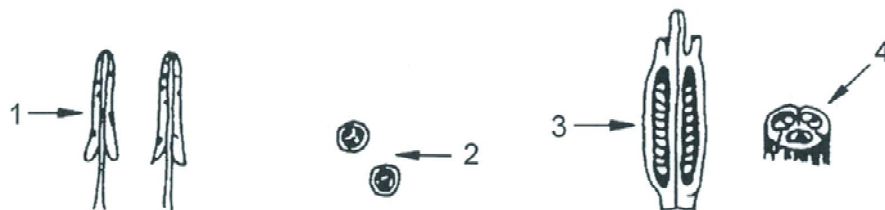
Key

- 1 aerial part
- 2 non-aerial part
- 3 ovary
- 4 style
- 5 stigmas (about 20 mm to 40 mm in length)

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NOTE The total length of the fresh pistil is between 60 mm and 100 mm.

Figure 4 — Saffron (*Crocus sativus* L.) female reproductive organ (pistil)



Key

- 1 stamens (about 20 mm in length)
- 2 pollen grains (80 µm to 100 µm in diameter)
- 3 ovary (longitudinal cut) (about 10 mm in length)
- 4 ovary (transversal cut)

Figure 5 — Some examples of floral waste