

Warning: All specimens must be cross-referenced for toxicity before field application.

KNF-7 is not responsible for misidentification of look-alikes like *Colchicum Autumnale* (Meadow Saffron).

STIGMAS
(RED THREADS)



STAMENS
(YELLOW
STALKS)



UPDATED:
22JAN2026



Terminal Link: Scan to sync
with Bunker Mainframe.

Botany Bunker Report 003 SAFFRON (*Crocus sativus*)

Botany Bunker Report

FIELD MANUAL

003 SAFFRON (*Crocus sativus*)

For field use only. KNF-7 is not responsible for misidentification.

→ If it has 6 stamens, leave it alone! Unless you want to take a "dirt nap".

KNF-7

Herbal Reference Vault

STABILITY & MOOD LOG

Sighting/ Dose	Mental Condition	Result

I used 20 threads after the Sector 8 breach. The tremors stopped within ten minutes. It's the only reason I could still hold the radio steady

PROTOCOL 003: THE GOLD OF THE DIRT

If you are reading this, the weight of the watch has begun to pull at your edges.

Saffron (*Crocus sativus*) is the Bunker's primary counter-measure against the slow erosion of morale.

In the time before, it was a luxury; in the wasteland, it is a survival essential that steadies the soul when the ash falls thick.

Don't let the delicate purple petals deceive you. This plant is a mental-health kit in a floral shell. The three crimson stigmas are your objective.

Handle them like a loaded clip.
Don't waste a single grain

SPECIMEN 003:
CROCUS SATIVUS

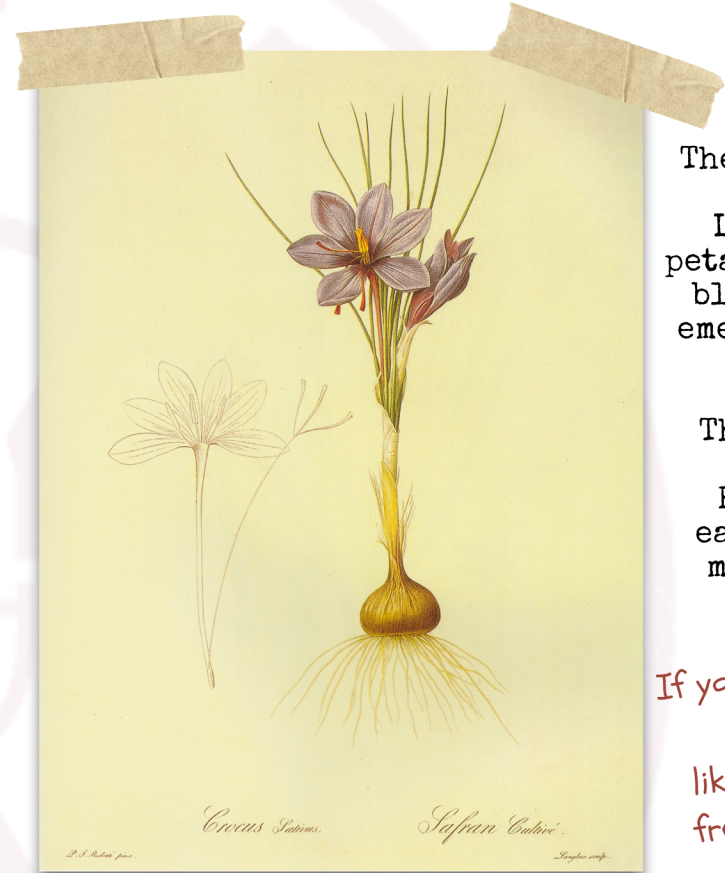
Approved for Scavenger Distribution
FILE REF: BT-SAF-003

- It grows where hope clings tight. corms in sandy soil, bloomed in fall's dim light.
- This is a perennial survivor. It thrives in well-drained, disturbed earth near old-world gardens and rectory ruins.

The soil near the ruins in Sector 8 is gritty enough that the rot doesn't take hold.

If the ground is soggy, keep moving.

IDENTIFICATION PROTOCOL: THE TRIPLE STIGMA



The Flowers:

Large, 6-
petaled purple
blooms that
emerge in the
autumn.

The Smell:

Pungent,
earthy, and
metallic-
sweet.

If you ask me, it
smells
like old world
fresh air and
happiness.

The Markers:

The Stigmas: Three long, drooping crimson threads. If there are more or less than three, proceed with extreme caution.

The Stamens: Short, yellow stalks. These are NOT the saffron; do not confuse them with the medicinal threads.

RED ZONE: CONTRAINDICATIONS

Pregnancy:

Do not consume Saffron in medicinal doses if pregnant. Large amounts act as a uterine stimulant and can lead to a premature termination of term.

Blood Pressure Interactions:

Saffron may lower blood pressure. If you are already lightheaded from sector-thirst or taking old-world antihypertensives, avoid high dosages to prevent a "blackout" during a tactical retreat.

Bipolar/Mood Stability:

While Saffron is a mood brightener, it can trigger "manic" spikes in scavengers with underlying bipolar conditions. Monitor your Stability Log (Page 12) closely for signs of over-agitation.

The Colchicum Reminder:

If the flower has 6 stamens, leave it alone unless you want to take a "dirt nap".

FIELD HARVEST PROTOCOL

Optimal Timing:

Crocus blooms at dawn in the fall and wilts by dusk. Harvesting must be done in this narrow morning window before the volatile oils and "gold" potency begin to fade.

Technique:

Stigmas must be harvested by hand. Use a quick and delicate touch to pluck the three crimson threads from the center of the bloom.

Treat with care.

Don't pull the root unless you're clearing the sector for good.

If you're delicate, it'll bloom again.

BACKCOUNTRY PREP: PROTOCOL "SOUL-STEADY"

The Tea Preparation:

Scavenge 10 to 15 saffron threads for a standard cup, or 20 to 25 for extra body.

Steep in warm (not boiling) water, milk, or coffee for 5-10 minutes.

For best results, wash and crush threads before steeping to release the volatile oils.

The Saffron Infusion:

Steep for an additional 5 minutes once added to the final vessel.

*Cover the vessel while steeping to trap the magical steam.

If your heart starts racing like a Geiger counter after your tea, you've taken too much. Saffron is for steadying the soul, not jump-starting a dead battery.

Respect the dose.

CURING & BUNKER STORAGE

Tincture Protocol:

Fill a jar half full with threads. Top with high-proof alcohol or cooking oil. Store in a jar in cool, dark conditions and shake daily.

Dry Storage: Once threads are harvested, they must be kept in airtight glass or metal canisters.

Mold Check:

Check stored batches monthly for mold. If it smells like damp earth instead of metallic sage, incinerate the batch immediately.

Warning:

Keep it dry or it's worthless. Wet saffron is just a mold magnet. In Sector 8, I lost a whole month's harvest because of a leaky seal. Don't be like me.

ADVANCED TACTICAL: TRADE GEM STATUS

Barter Value:

Saffron is a rare trade gem that can buy a night's safety when ammo runs dry. It is the "Gold of the Dirt".

The Authentication Test:

To prove potency to a skeptical trader, place a single thread in a cap of water. Real saffron will turn the water yellow/orange slowly, while the thread stays crimson. If the thread turns white or the water turns red instantly, it's a dyed fake—abort the trade.

Tactical Carry (Micro-Vials):

Do not carry your whole harvest in one bag. I sew "Trade-Stiches", tiny, waterproof glass vials containing exactly 10 threads, into the lining of my jacket. If you're stripped of your pack, you still have enough "gold" to buy your way through the next checkpoint.

Don't show your whole stash at the fence. One thread can buy a meal; ten can buy a map. Keep the rest buried.

PROTOCOL: "SENSORY-SHIELD"

The Aroma Effect:

The aroma of Saffron is a mood booster in its own right. Even before brewing, the scent helps disrupt the "static" of bunker fatigue.

Application:

When the air in the lower levels gets stale or after a high-stress breach, open a storage canister and inhale deeply for 30 seconds.

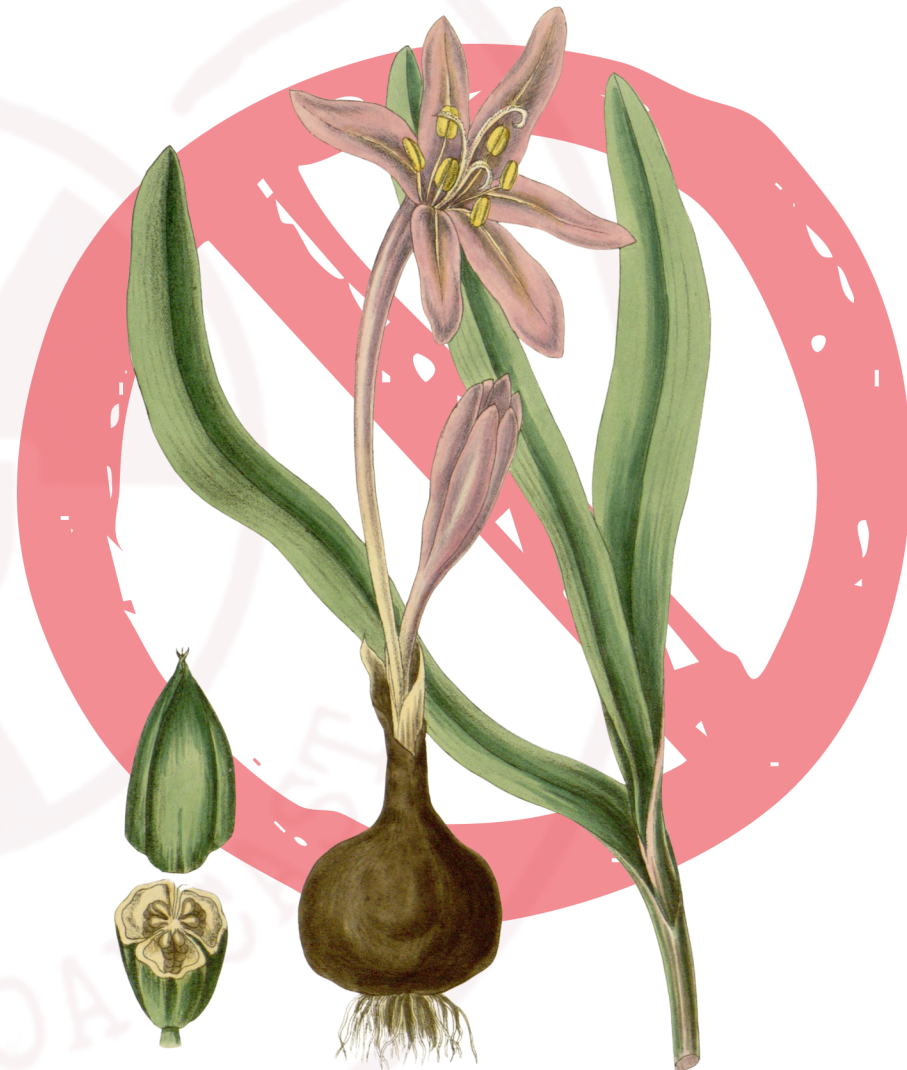
The Ritual:

"Earth in the scent, gold in the thread.
Clear the static. Steady the head."

SAFFRON



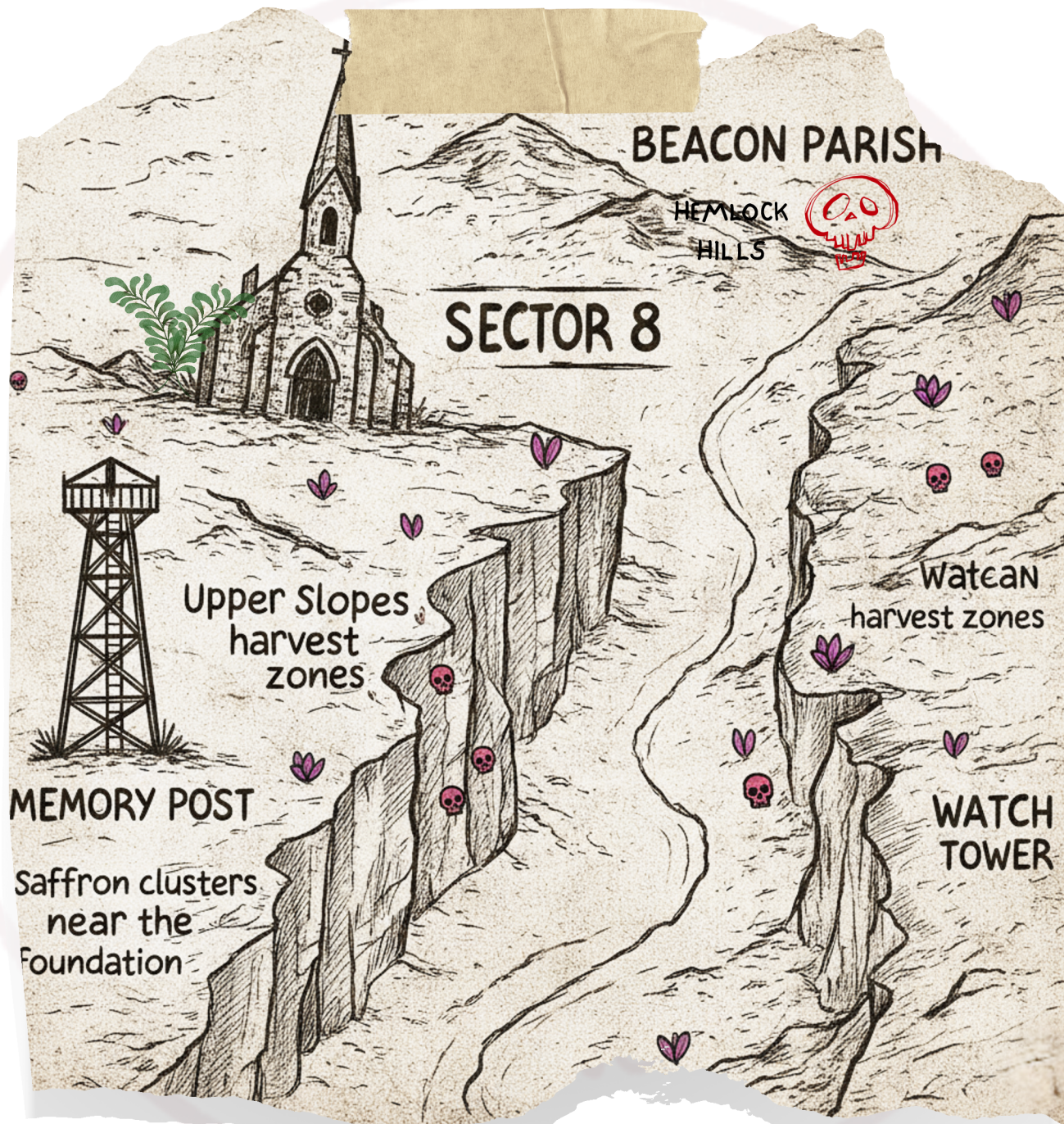
MEADOW SAFFRON



Ref: W. Müller (1887) & E. Hamilton (1852) // Digitally Processed for B.B.R. 003 by KNF-7 Salvage Lab

Count the stalks in the center. If there are six, don't even touch it. Three is gold; six is a grave. Don't let the purple petals lie to you.

The wind at Beacon Parish will strip the breath right out of you, but the Saffron there is the purest in the I-12 grid. Watch the treeline toward Sector 10—something's been signaling from the Smokestacks at night.



SAFFRON
(Crocus
Sativus)



MEADOW
SAFFRON
(Colchicum
autumnale)

SECTOR
8

