



FÄRBERDISTEL

Safflower

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Botanical name: *Carthamus tinctorius*

Family: Asteraceae

Lifecycle: Annual herbaceous plant

Flower colour: Yellow, orange and red

Varieties: Spiny and spineless

Seed oil types: High-linoleic or high-oleic

Uses: Edible oil, animal feed, birdseed, natural dye

NICE TO KNOW

- Ancient dye source, once used as saffron substitute
- Attracts pollinators
- Safflower oil marketed as heart-healthy
- Fits well in crop rotations

DISTRIBUTION

Safflower thrives in semi-arid regions and is cultivated across many parts of the world major producers are:

- India
- United States
- Mexico, Argentina, Australia
- Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan

It is often used in crop rotations in dryland farming systems

GROWING & HARVESTING INFORMATION

Climate and Soil

- Prefers cool germination and warm flowering
- Highly drought-tolerant due to deep taproots (up to 3 meters)
- Thrives in well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soils

Planting:

- Sown in Spring or autumn
- Row spacing: 30-50cm; plant density: 15-35 plants/meter
- Seed rate: 20-50 kg/ha depending on sowing method

Harvesting:

- Ready when leaves turn brown, bracts dry and seeds harden
- Harvested by combine or manually in small-scale farming
- Seeds are threshed and dried before oil extraction or storage