



**Virginia
Cooperative
Extension**

Virginia Tech,
Virginia State University

GOOCHLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER

2023 / Summer

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VASCULAR STREAK DIEBACK ON ORNAMENTAL TREES

Bob Whitehead

A new disease currently called Vascular Streak Dieback (VSD) is causing quite a stir in the tree nursery trade. For two years, nurseries have reported dieback issues in tree stock and the disease may have been in the US even longer, since it can be confused with other abiotic and biotic tree problems. At this time, very little is known about the exact cause of this disease. A fungal organism known as *Ceratobasidium theobromae* is known to cause vascular streak dieback on cacao in Southeast Asia. So far in the US, this fungus has been found on nursery tree stock and some landscape tree plantings. However, it hasn't yet been proved as the primary pathogen. Much research remains. The overall distribution of this fungus in the US is also unknown and under investigation. Dieback in the upper canopy is characteristic of this disease and it effects a number of ornamental hardwood trees such as maple, redbud, dogwood, catalpa, wax myrtle, tulip poplar, black gum and others. Vascular discoloration in the cambium layer and sapwood is frequently visible. However, this discoloration may be absent in dogwoods. Other symptoms include chlorosis, wilting, stunting, and /or scorching of leaves that in many cases remain on the branches. Dying branches and eventual tree death are the likely result.

Homeowners are advised to thoroughly inspect nursery stock in an effort to purchase healthy disease-free trees. Providing good cultural practices reduces tree stress and facilitates some disease resistance. For new plantings, choose a planting site with good drainage and adjust the soil pH as necessary for the chosen tree species. Take care to plant trees at the appropriate depth and space trees to avoid crowding. Keep trees sufficiently watered during root system establishment and during periods of drought.

A laboratory test is necessary to diagnose VSD by detecting the presence of *Ceratobasidium theobromae*. A specialized sampling procedure is also required. Contact your local Extension office for assistance if you suspect this or other tree health issues. See [Extension publication SPES-483](#) for more information on VSD.



The transition zone between healthy and dead wood on a cankered redbud.
Devin Billy, VDACS.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Goochland County Unit Office**

2748 Dogtown Road
804.556.5641

<https://goochland.ext.vt.edu>

CHANGES TO OVER-THE-COUNTER ANTIBIOTIC LAW FOR LIVESTOCK

Nicole Shuman

Beginning on June 11, 2023, farmers, ranchers, and other livestock owners will not be able to purchase over-the-counter (OTC) antibiotics without a prescription from a veterinarian. Since 2017, Veterinary Feed Directives have been required to deliver antibiotics to animals via feed. OTC antibiotic purchases were a loophole in the 2017 legislation.

These new regulations are essential to safeguard antibiotics for use in treating human disease. It is easy to misuse antibiotics, and delivering a less-than-lethal dose to microbes promotes the development of antibiotic-resistant “superbugs,” much in the same way that pesticide misuse can promote the development of resistant weeds and pests. Other drugs, such as dewormers, are not affected by the new rules.

In order to get a prescription from a vet, livestock producers must have a valid veterinary client-patient relationship (VCPR). Essentially, a vet has to be familiar with your operation. The time to establish a VCPR is NOW, not when animals get sick. And in case you feel the need to stock up on OTC antibiotics—please don't. The drugs do have expiration dates. Your time will be better spent calling a vet and introducing them to your operation.

ANNUAL WELL-WATER CLINIC REGISTRATION OPEN

Every September, the Goochland Extension Office offers a well-water testing clinic through the Virginia Household Water Quality Program. The quality of a private water supply is the responsibility of the property owner, and the U.S. EPA recommends testing on a regular basis. For \$65.00, residents can test their water for iron, manganese, nitrate, lead, arsenic, fluoride, sulfate, pH, total dissolved solids, hardness, sodium, copper, total coliform bacteria and E. Coli bacteria.

Sample kits will be distributed on September 11 and collected the morning of September 13. Results usually take four to five weeks, and a results interpretation meeting will be held on October 26. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/GoochlandPowhatanWellWater>.

WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is the world's largest youth development organization that provides a unique program that is hands-on, researched based, and focused on teaching youth valuable life skills. Goochland County 4-H currently has five 4-H clubs, in-school enrichment programs, and an annual 4-H Jr. Summer Camp.

GOOCHLAND 4-H CLUBS

- Goochland 4-H Shooting Education Club (Open for ages 9-18 as of September 30th 2023) *Shooting Education currently has waiting list for enrollment.*
- Great Equestrians 4-H Horse Club (Open for ages 9-18 as of September 30th 2023)
- Goochland 4-H Livestock Club (Open for ages 5-18 as of September 30th 2023)
- Trailblazers 4-H Community Club (Open for ages 9-18 as of September 30th 2023)
- Goochland 4-H Cloverbuds (Open to youth ages 5-8 as of September 30th 2023)

JR. 4-H SUMMER CAMP

- Jr. Summer Camp is open to ages 9-13
- Goochland camps with Powhatan and Hanover Counties
- Teens ages 14-18 are welcome to apply to be a teen counselor

FOCUS ON NATIVE PLANTS: *MONARDA*

Pat Lust, Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

The Bluestone Perennials Webpage for *Monarda* begins with this quote: “Bee Balm is absolutely irresistible to butterflies, bees and hummingbirds!” And the rest of the page is filled with a choice of 24 colorful varieties – cultivars, hybrids, etc. – each one more beautiful than the last. But the straight species that are native to Virginia are also surprisingly beautiful, and more important, they are the ones that the bees, butterflies and humming birds are really seeking to meet their needs. Cultivars and hybrids are selected and bred for a particular feature that is appealing to humans: size of flower, color, plants habit, etc. But an unfamiliar colors, sizes and shapes of cultivars and hybrids are not consistent with a natural habitat and may confuse the pollinators.

So, let’s go with the current trend of planting more natives in our gardens and talk about the four *Monardas* that are native to Virginia. The first three listed below are more common in the western part of the state and the fourth is more common in the eastern part. And, best of all, they all will grow very well in Central Virginia.

Monarda clinopodia (White Bergamot, Basil Beebalm): With white to pink flowers and a mature height of 3’, *M. clinopodia* is probably the least well known and least showy of the four. It blooms throughout the summer.

Monarda didyma (Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea, Red Bergamot): This one, with the bright red flowers, is my favorite and is growing in my front yard. Normally about 3-4’, it can grow even taller in the right location. It has a long bloom season, from late spring into fall. *M. didyma* prefers sun to part shade and moist to wet soil.

Monarda fistulosa (Wild Bergamot, Beebalm): Probably the most frequently seen of the four, the flowers of *M. fistulosa* range from white to pink to purple and the plant grows up to 5’ tall. It, too, has a long blooming season, and it prefers sun to part shade and dry to moist soil.

Monarda punctata (Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm, Spotted Horsemint): For *M. punctata* the flower color varies greatly among, white, pink, yellow, green and purple. Blooms may appear earlier than the others, as early as April, and it grows only to about 3’. It prefers full sun and dry soil.

These species each have a variety of common names, and all use the words Bee Balm in one of them. This is descriptive of folk medicine’s use of crushed *Monarda* leaves to sooth bee stings. Historically, these plants have had a wide range of medicinal uses. *Monarda* is part of the mint family, and the leaves do smell pleasantly minty. The plants can be divided after a few years or can be propagated by cuttings or seeds. And, as with most native plants, they require almost no special attention once they are established.

For more information about *Monarda*, check out the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#), the [North Carolina State University Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#), and [Missouri Botanical Garden](#).

Help the Extension Office with a Survey!

Every five years, Extension conducts a situation analysis to identify emerging needs in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, horticulture, youth development, and community viability. This community input helps us direct our priorities and programs as an office. The survey will take no more than 10 minutes of your time.

Complete the Survey at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023GoochlandNeeds>

Agriculture, Natural Resources and Horticulture Upcoming Programs

June Association Meeting Continuing Education Lecture

Thursday, June 8, 9:30AM

3910 Old Buckingham Rd, Powhatan, VA 23139

Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association Meetings have a continuing education lecture that is free and open to the public. The Association Meeting will be held in the Auditorium of the Powhatan Health and Human Services Building. At the June meeting, members from the 2022 Training Class will present their final projects.

Summer Beef Field Day

Saturday, June 24, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Meadow Event Park

Save the date for the Summer Beef Field Day at Meadow Event Park! This program will focus on health and safety topics important for livestock producers, including farm first aid, veterinary updates, and BQA Level II Chuteside Training. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/BeefSafetyDay>. For more information, contact Nicole Shuman (804-556-5872; nks49@vt.edu).

Invasive Plant Walk with James River Association

June 27, 2023, 6:30 PM

Tucker Park, 1300 Maidens Road, Maidens, VA 23102

Rain date: June 29, 2023

Come join Extension, the James River Association, and the James River Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists for a tour of the non-native plant species invading Tucker Park—you probably have some of these same species on your property, too! We will focus on identification, look-alike species, and appropriate control tactics. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/TuckerParkInvasivePlants>. Contact Nicole Shuman (804-556-5872; nks49@vt.edu) for more information.

Riparian Buffers with James River Association

Thursday, July 13, 9:30 AM

2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063

Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association Meetings have a continuing education lecture that is free and open to the public. In July, Joey Shelton of the James River Association will speak on Riparian Buffers.

Fall Lawn Care

Tuesday, August 1, 6:00-8:30PM

2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063

Take advantage of the fall season to improve your lawn, reduce weeds, and improve soil fertility so that it can provide your lawn with the nutrients it needs. Topics include soil testing, weed management, aeration, fertilization and lawn care best management practices. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/Fall-Lawn-Care>.

Allelopathic Plants and Companion Planting

Thursday, August 10, 9:30AM

3910 Old Buckingham Rd, Powhatan, VA 23139

Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardener Association Meetings have a continuing education lecture that is free and open to the public. The Association Meeting will be held in the Auditorium of the Powhatan Health and Human Services Building. In August, Grace Monger will present on Allelopathic Plants and Companion Planting.



2023 Goochland Ag Fair 4-H/FFA Livestock Show August 12, 2023



Open to ALL 4-H members in Virginia!
AND Goochland FFA Chapter Members
Entries Close July 14



**Virginia
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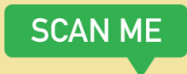
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Hosted by Goochland County 4-H and the Goochland Ag Fair Committee

Register **HERE!**



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cayla Walker, Goochland 4-H Extension Agent, at (804-556-5873/TDD*) during business hours of 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Se habla español. Teléfono: 804-556-5872; correo electrónico: nks49@vt.edu; mensaje de texto - 301-633-0652.

SAVE THE DATE

GOOCHLAND COUNTY AG FAIR

AUG 12

ANIMAL SHOWCASE

GOOCHLAND
AGRICULTURAL CENTER



804-556-5854
WWW.GOOCHLANDVA.US



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