



**Virginia  
Cooperative  
Extension**

Virginia Tech.  
Virginia State University

# GOOCHLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER

2022 / Fall

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## INVASIVE INSECT MOVES CLOSER TO GOOCHLAND

Nicole Shuman and Bob Whitehead

In July, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services expanded the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine area from Frederick, Warren and Clarke counties, and the City of Winchester to include the following localities: Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas, Staunton, Waynesboro, Albemarle, Augusta, Carroll, Page, Prince William, Rockingham, Rockbridge, Shenandoah, and Wythe. This invasive insect isn't in Goochland... yet.

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is very damaging to a number of economically important horticultural crops, like wine grapes and fruit trees. They can also be aesthetically damaging by excreting large quantities of "honeydew," which encourages the growth of sooty mold on plants. Goochland residents should learn to identify this insect, and to report any potential sightings to the Extension Office at 804-556-5872.

The youngest stages, or "nymphs," of SLF are wingless and black with white spots. Older nymphs develop red patches. They range from less than a quarter inch to about a half an inch long, depending on age. Nymphs can be found from early May, when they begin to hatch, all the way through the end of August.

Nymphs mature into adults starting in July. Adult SLF are about an inch long and have tan colored outer wings with black spots. Distinctive red, white, and black hind wings are visible when the wings are spread. Adults breed and lay eggs starting in September, and can be found until mid-November.

Egg masses are inconspicuous. Only about 1.5 inches long, they are shiny grey when first laid but weather to a dull grey in time. SLF is happy to lay its eggs on pretty much any surface, although they prefer surfaces similar in color to the egg masses. Eggs might end up on tree bark, firewood, concrete, or metal. When plants, plant parts, and other goods are transported, the eggs can come along for the ride. Thus, certain regulations apply to the quarantine area. There are no restrictions on goods or regulated items moving into the quarantine area from outside, or on their movement within the quarantine area. However, if household goods that are stored



*SLF adults and nymphs.  
Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org*

**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Goochland County Unit Office**

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

outside are to be moved out of the quarantine area, homeowners should inspect and complete a Spotted Lanternfly Checklist, available at <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/spotted-lanternfly-checklist.pdf>, prior to moving these items. Additional restrictions apply to businesses.

One last step that Goochland residents can take to limit the spread of SLF is to control any Tree-of-Heaven on their property. Tree-of-Heaven, *Alianthus altissima*, is an invasive species that is a preferred host plant by SLF. Landowners in areas with SLF are advised to eliminate 90% of the Tree-of-Heaven on their property and use the remaining 10% as trap trees for SLF. If you decide to keep any Tree-of-Heaven, make sure the tree is a male! The Extension Office is available to assist with identification and control options.

## **SCHEDULE YOUR TREE TIME**

Bob Whitehead

Fall is a great time to be outdoors whether you are chasing a little white ball through the trees after an errant shot, walking a tree lined trail through a local Goochland park or simply walking through your yard trying to decide where and what kind of tree you might want to plant. Fall is a great time for planting, but planting a tree requires some planning. Trees serve various functions in the landscape such as shade, structure framing, background views, screening, floral beauty and winter bark interest. Adding a new tree to the landscape should also complement existing trees. Once you have a purpose and a location in mind, you can move on to selecting a tree species to meet the identified need. Determine the space available and search for tree species that won't exceed the space at its mature size. Make a list of trees that might be a good choice and do a little more research to see if they have known insect and disease vulnerabilities and can handle our local seasonal climate variations. Native Virginia species may fit the bill here. This short planning explanation is meant to help you avoid a frequent mistake; that is acquiring a tree, planting it and then finding out later that it really wasn't the right choice or it's in the wrong location.

There are a number of quality commercial nurseries in central Virginia to assist with your tree purchase. However, many people are not aware that the Virginia Department of Forestry operates a tree seedling nursery with very reasonable prices. The "Buy Virginia Trees" online store opens in October with tree seedlings available for pickup in early spring. Early spring is also a good time for planting trees so check out their online catalog.

There are lots of good extension publications on tree planting. A few brief planting considerations include: 1) Conduct a soil test and evaluate the drainage where the tree will be planted. 2) Prepare the planting hole at least 1 ½ times the root ball size. The depth should not be deeper than the root ball height. Loosen or chop the sides of the hole to create crevasses for lateral root exploration. 3) Set the tree in the hole and verify that the root flare or top of the root ball is at or slightly above grade. Remove any wire or wrapping material that restricts the roots. Inspect and correct any circling or girdling roots in the root ball. 4) Back fill the hole with native soil. In most cases it is best to avoid planting hole amendments and avoid fertilizer in the first growing season. 5) Apply mulch around the tree to the drip line, but not against the trunk. Water thoroughly but not excessively. 6) Stake the tree, if necessary, and protect the trunk from animals.

See the following web links for more detailed information and the "Buy Virginia Trees" catalog:

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/tips-choosing-trees-and-shrubs>

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/planting-tree-or-shrub>

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/trees-and-shrubs-home-garden>

<https://wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/09/fall-is-the-time-to-plant-trees-shrubs/>

<https://www.buyvatrees.com/>

<https://treesvirginia.org/education/tree-planting>

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



**Goochland County 4-H**

Wishes all students, teachers, and staff a safe and fulfilling new school year!

Interested in bringing 4-H Into your classroom? Share your ideas with us by scanning the QR code and completing our teacher interest form

**SCAN ME**



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## FALL IS A GOOD TIME FOR HAY TESTING

Nicole Shuman

With the hay coming in, it's time for producers to think about hay testing. Not all hay is created equal, and testing can tell you a lot about the nutrition your animals are actually receiving. Key metrics are dry matter (DM), crude protein (CP), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF). Nutritional needs change across gestation and lactation, and are different for first calf heifers than mature cows. Whenever you plan on feeding hay—in the winter, or in the summer and early fall to allow for stockpiling—knowing the forage quality can allow you to match lots of hay to your herd's needs.

Depending on storage conditions, hay quality can decline over time. Hay stored outside, exposed, and on the ground can decline significantly in quality between being harvested and being fed. For hay stored in such conditions, analysis should be done closer to the time of feeding so that it most accurately represents the nutrition that animals receive.

Of course, any forage analysis is only as good as the sample submitted. Samples must be representative to be useful. Divide the hay into lots, with one lot being all of the hay from one cutting of one field. From a single lot, take 20–30 subsamples and combine them into a composite sample to submit. Repeat for the other lots of hay. Sampling by lot ensures that you don't accidentally "average out" the variability that comes from different fields and different cuttings. Meanwhile, taking an adequate number of subsamples ensures that you do get an analysis that reflects the entire lot, rather than an unusually good or bad bale.

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***The Extension Office has a hay probe available for checkout. Let Nicole know if you would like more information on how to take and submit hay samples!***

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## PEST ALERT: ALLIUM LEAFMINER

Extension Specialist Tom Kuhar

Gardeners getting ready to plant garlic this fall should know that we have a new pest of onions and garlic in Virginia. The allium leafminer is an invasive fly species that was first recorded in the U.S. in Pennsylvania in 2015. The pest attacks onions, garlic, and leeks where the larvae (maggots) feed on plant tissue by mining the plant causing wilting and possible death.

This new pest to the mid-Atlantic area is a long grey-black fly with a distinctive yellow or orange patch on the top of its head, yellow sides and "knees" (femur-tibia junction), and white halteres (knobs as second pair of wings). The larva is a typical light colored maggot (no head capsule or legs). Adult female flies repeatedly puncture leaves with their ovipositor, resulting in a line of small white dots. Leaves can be wavy, curled and distorted. Larvae mine leaves and move into bulbs and leaf sheaths where they pupate.

This invasive pest was recorded in southwest Virginia in 2021 and has been found in Montgomery, Carroll, Botetourt, and Bedford Counties in Virginia. If you see this pest in VA, please send a photo or two to the Extension Office. Our specialists are still trying to determine how widespread the insect is in Virginia.



*Allium leafminer larvae (above) and egg laying scars (below).  
Tom Kuhar*

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## **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Horticulture Upcoming Programs**

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### **Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners now accepting applications for the 2023 Training Class!**

Application closes November 1, 2022.

The Goochland Powhatan Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who advance Virginia Cooperative Extension's mission by educating the public programming on environmentally sound horticultural practices. The program consists of 50 hours of training and 50 hours of service. Biweekly classes start in January and run through April. The class fee is \$145. Scholarships are available. Apply online at [gpmga.org](http://gpmga.org). Questions? Contact Nicole Shuman at 804-556-5872 or [nks49@vt.edu](mailto:nks49@vt.edu).

### **Annual Well-Water Testing Clinic**

September 19, 2022: Kit Pick-Up at the Goochland Extension Office

September 21, 2022: Kit Drop-Off at Goochland Extension Office

October 26, 2022: Results Interpretation Meeting at Powhatan Extension Office

This well-water clinic tests for 14 different parameters: iron, manganese, nitrate, lead, arsenic, fluoride, sulfate, pH, total dissolved solids, hardness, sodium, copper, total coliform bacteria and E. Coli bacteria. Samples cost \$65. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/2022GPwellwatertest> and contact Bob Whitehead at 804-556-5841 or [whitehd5@vt.edu](mailto:whitehd5@vt.edu).

### **Invasive Plant Walk with James River Association**

September 29, 2022 at Tucker Park

5:30 to 6:30

Rain date: September 30, 2022

Join Nicole Shuman from the Extension Office and Joey Shelton from James River Association as we take a walk around Tucker Park and talk about some of Goochland's most problematic plant species. Registration is through Goochland Parks & Recreation: <https://www.goochlandva.us/253/Programs>

### **46th Annual Fall Forestry and Wildlife Bus Tour**

October 7, 2022 in Powhatan County OR October 28, 2022 in Louisa County

8:00 to 5:00

Join landowners, natural resource professionals, and other outdoor lovers for day-long tours that explore a variety of sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices. Tours visit private, public, and industry-owned lands. Past tours have visited seedling nurseries, timber harvesting operations, saw mills and both public and private forest lands. This year, tour stops will include active forest and wildlife management practices. Lunch and travel between stops allow for plenty of fellowship and opportunities to learn from other participants and natural resource professionals. To register, visit <http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/landownerprograms/field-tours/index.html> for a brochure or contact Jason Fisher at 434-476-2147 x3389 or [jasonf@vt.edu](mailto:jasonf@vt.edu) or Neil Clark at [neclark@vt.edu](mailto:neclark@vt.edu).

## ***Become a 4-H Volunteer!***

Goochland 4-H is seeking adult volunteers who are passionate about positive youth development for the following volunteering opportunities:

- One time/Occasional Volunteer
- Club Leader/Club Volunteer
- 4-H Camp Adult Volunteer (Overnight)

*Background screening is required to enroll as a 4-H Volunteer.*



# GOOCHLAND 4-H OPEN HOUSE

*Open to all Goochland  
residents and teachers*

*Learn about 4-H Clubs, 4-H  
Camp, In-School Enrichment,  
and more!*

*Refreshments and  
enrollment help included!*

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

**October 6th 2022**

**Goochland Branch Public Library**

**6:30-8:00pm**

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 VCE at (804)556-5873/TDD\*) during business hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

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