

# Virginia Cooperative Extension, Goochland Office

## Quarterly Newsletter



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Second Quarter, Summer 2022

### Submitting Samples to the Goochland Extension Office

With the coming of spring, sample submissions to our office have picked up considerably. For Bob and me, receiving an interesting new sample—whether it is an insect that needs identification or a diseased plant—is one of the highlights of our job. However, we are also accustomed to receiving samples that may not be in the best condition and thus can be difficult to diagnose or identify. Please read on for some tips and tricks on how to submit a good sample.

#### Digital Samples

Frequently, clients will send us a picture of a plant, insect, or snake they need identified. The more pictures, the better! Pictures should be in focus, and well-lit. High contrast lighting, with very dark and very bright areas, can make it difficult to pick out the details we sometimes depend on for proper identification. Especially with weeds, focus in on exactly what you want identified. A picture, taken at a distance, of a clump of various plants tangled together makes for a lot of guesswork. Try to take a couple of close ups of the leaves, flowers, or seedpods as well as some shots of the plant in its setting. You can always pick the plant and lay it on a piece of printer paper or other neutral background to photograph it. Pictures can be emailed to [nks49@vt.edu](mailto:nks49@vt.edu) or [whitehd5@vt.edu](mailto:whitehd5@vt.edu).

#### Physical Samples

We also accept physical samples for both identification and diagnosis purposes. They can be dropped off at our office between the hours of 8:30 and 5, Monday through Friday. After-hours submissions can be left in the “Soil Sample Kits” real estate box on our building door. Especially in the case of plant samples, please do not drop off samples last thing on Friday, since it will be a couple of days before we are able to examine them. In the heat of the summer, it is better to leave after-hours samples for us early in the morning. Whenever you leave us a sample in the box, please call 804-556-5872 and leave us a message so we know to look for it.

The first key to a good sample is adequate material. A couple of leaves may be enough to go on, but they also may not. A couple of branches is a much better bet. If the plant is not too large and you can spare it, you are welcome to bring us the whole thing, roots and all. Please wrap the roots or enclose in a plastic bag. Even if you cannot bring us an entire plant, providing a sample of the roots can aid diagnosis. Plant material should be symptomatic but not yet dead and desiccated. If you have a couple of different plants all showing symptoms, please bring a sample from each and label them accordingly.

For insects, please avoid bringing us insects that are attached to scotch tape or that have been removed from sticky traps. These materials can damage legs, antennae, wings, and other morphological structures. If you trap a live insect, it can be killed by placing it in the freezer.

#### Samples for the Plant Clinic at Virginia Tech

Sometimes we are not able to diagnose a problem locally and must send samples to Blacksburg. Last year, the plant clinic instituted a \$35 fee for any sample, physical or digital. If we submit a digital sample and the clinic requires a physical one, we can send one at no additional cost. We will work with you to ensure that your sample is of good quality and packaged appropriately. Please note, however, that we avoid shipping samples later than Wednesday so that it arrives in Blacksburg before the weekend.

### Horticulture Help Line:

**Residents with questions regarding gardens, lawn care, pruning and more are invited to contact the Goochland Extension Office for free advice. The Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners are available at the office Tuesdays beginning in mid-March through September. You can reach them at 804-556-5874 or stop by the Goochland Extension Office.**

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***Please note that there is a \$50 returned check fee for any returned checks.***

## Calling all Goochland Gardeners: Time to Plant a Row!

Did you know the GoochlandCares accepts donations of fresh fruits and vegetables from home gardeners? In fact, fresh produce is one of the most needed items for their food pantry. Plant a Row for the Hungry is a national effort to encourage gardeners everywhere to donate surplus produce to food pantries.

Donating is simple and tax deductible. You can donate one pound of produce or one hundred. All donations should be brought to GoochlandCares at 2999 River Road West during the following the hours:

9:00 - 4:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

9:00 - 7:00 on Tuesday

9:00 - 3:00 on Friday

Interested gardeners are encouraged to sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/PlantARowGoochland>, where they can also request to receive a monthly Plant a Row newsletter with helpful, seasonal garden information and Plant a Row updates.



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### NEED GARDENING HELP?

Since COVID-19 has given you time, maybe you have decided to plant a vegetable or flower garden or maybe you have been gardening for years. Either way, everyone has questions about planting, disease, and pests. Here are some links to sources for answers to your gardening questions. You can also contact the GPMGA Master Gardeners on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gpmga>

<https://ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden/master-gardener.html>  
information about growing fruits and vegetables in Virginia

<https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/ce/>  
list of informational videos and webinars

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT-rsFK2y4FJDI5ful2JEiw>  
multiple videos on various gardening problems





# 4-H Updates



## ATTENTION



### Goochland 4-H Junior Camp at Jamestown is scheduled for July 4-8, 2022



Please mark your calendars.  
Registration closes June 15th 2022!

For youth ages 9-13 (as of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2022)

Contact [caylaks98@vt.edu](mailto:caylaks98@vt.edu) for more information or if you want to be added to our Camp Interest email List!



## An Egg-cellent Spring with



### Goochland 4-H's Embryology Program



Starting in March, 7 different classes throughout Goochland County Public Schools participated in our In-school Embryology program. Throughout the program, students and teachers incubated eggs in the classroom while learning topics such as biology, animal science, and more!

In other news, we are currently running our Family Embryology program, where youth have the chance to learn similar themes in their household. These youth complete project books to hone either recordkeeping and responsibility life skills.



We hope to see you next spring for 2023 Embryology!

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

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

See what 4-H has to offer for you!! Here is a list of our 4-H Clubs:

The Goochland County 4-H program is growing throughout the county. 4-H provides “learn by doing” opportunities for youth to receive “hands on experiences through work or activities. 4-H is for all youth, both boys and girls between the ages of 5-18 years of age regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap or political affiliation. For further information or questions regarding any of these programs please contact the 4-H office at 556-5873.



### **Goochland 4-H Shooting Education Club: Ages 9-18**

The Shooting Education Club focuses on teaching responsible handling of any firearm, including safety, cleaning and proper storage. The youth will have a chance to compete in several 4-H sponsored shooting event throughout the year. The 4-H club is lead by qualifies, trained 4-H volunteers who are certified instructors in the following disciplines; archery, rifle, shotgun, pistol, air rifle.

**\*There is a waitlist for this club\***

### **4-H Trailblazers & Cloverbuds: Ages 5-18**

Youth will learn about a variety of subject areas such as geocaching, photography, science and more. Meetings are usually held in the Central High School Classroom or via ZOOM. (2748 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063).

### **Great Equestrian 4-H Club: Ages 9-18**

The 4-Hers will participate in equine workshops, visit farms and show equine at local 4-H horse shows. This is a competition horse club. The 4-H members meet once a month on the first Tuesday at 6:30pm.

### **Goochland 4-H Livestock Club: Ages 5-18**

The Goochland Livestock 4-H club focuses on learning about livestock animals and agriculture. Throughout the year, the youth participate in workshops on different species of livestock; have guest speakers within the industry and show at the local 4-H livestock shows. Youth do not need to have a livestock animal to be a member just an interest. **Youth 5-8 years of age, can be a part of this club as Cloverbuds until they reach the 4-H age of 9.** This 4-H Club meets once a month on the second Thursday at 6:30 pm at St. Mathews UMC in Goochland.

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## **Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign Fall 2022**

### **What is the Paper Clover Program?**

During the semi-annual event, TSC invites friends and family to support 4-H by donating \$1 at checkout in stores to support sending youth in Virginia to 4-H camp, State 4-H Congress, and other leadership experiences.

### **Historically, how much money is raised in Virginia during Paper Clover?**

Over the past several years, Virginia has annually raised more than \$75,000 to benefit local programming during the Spring and Fall Campaign.

### **When is the fundraising campaign?**

As a semi-annual event, the Paper Clover Campaign takes place in the Spring and Fall of each year, usually in April and October.

**Can people donate online?** Yes, customers can make a donation with their purchase both in the app and on TSC’s website. These funds are credited to the state as a whole, not individual stores. Customers can also donate in store just like they have in past years.

Learn more about 4-H’s partnership with Tractor Supply, at [WWW.TRACTORSUPPLY.COM/4-H](http://WWW.TRACTORSUPPLY.COM/4-H).



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## Ten Steps to Building a Self-Watering Vegetable Planting Container Using Two 5 Gallon Buckets

- Step 1** Obtain necessary tools such as 1) cordless drill, 2) 1/4" & 1/8" drill bits, 3) tape measure, 4) small straight handle hacksaw, 5) hole saw (various diameters 1" – 1 1/2") and a permanent marker. Other tools you have on hand may be useful too. See Figure 1.
- Step 2** Obtain two 5-gallon buckets. If you don't want to use recycled buckets or buckets from big box stores, you can purchase food grade or obtain them from food business discards. See Figure 2.
- Step 3** Nest one bucket inside of the other. Determine and mark with a permanent marker on the outside bucket where the bottom of the inside bucket is located. Hold them in front of a light to observe the shadow of bottom of the inside bucket through the side of the outside bucket. Separate the two buckets. Using a 1/2" drill bit, drill one hole a just below the mark you made on the outside bucket. This is the overflow hole for the reservoir (outside bucket). See Figure 3.

**Note:** The following steps will be used to mark, cut and drill holes in the planting bucket (inside bucket)

- Step 4** Obtain a straight plastic or PVC pipe at least 24" long. Using one end of the pipe, trace a circle on the bottom of the planting bucket (inside bucket) near the outside edge. Cut out the circle, using a hole saw with the same diameter as the circle or use the 1/2" drill bit to drill a hole in the center of the circle. Use a straight handle hack saw or utility knife to cut the small circular 1" – 1 1/2" hole at the edge of the bucket bottom. Refer to Figures 4 & 5.
- Step 5** Then, on the same bucket, using a permanent marker, draw a circle centered on the bottom of the bucket with a diameter of 4 3/8" – 4 1/4". Refer to Figure 4. Drill a 1/2 inch hole inside the perimeter of the large circle. Use the straight handle hack saw or a utility knife to cut out the large circle in the center of the bucket bottom.
- Step 6** Once the two circular holes have been cut from the bottom of the bucket, use the marker to make evenly spaced dots around the perimeter of the large circle and the small circle on the outside edge. Refer to Figure 4. Then, using a 1/4" drill bit, drill a hole through each of the evenly spaced marks on the bottom of the bucket. When viewed from inside, your bucket should now look like Figure 4, with all of the necessary holes.
- Step 7** Obtain a small plant container with outside diameter of 4 1/2" and approximately 3 1/2" depth. Using a marker, make evenly spaced marks around the outside of the plant container. The bottom of the container should already have drainage holes. If not, use the marker to make evenly spaced marks on the bottom too. Using a 1/4" drill bit, drill a hole through each of the evenly spaced marks. Refer to Figure 6
- Step 8** With all of the holes cut and drilled it is time to assemble the planter and position the fill tube (straight plastic pipe from step 4). Nest the two buckets together again. Place the 4-inch plant **container in the center hole of the planter bucket. See Figures 7 & 8**
- Step 9** Use a self-threading screw to attach the fill tube to the side edge of the planter bucket so that it is held firmly in place. See Figure 9. Your planter is now ready for planting.
- Step 10.** Fill the small 4-inch plant container with moistened potting mix and seat it in the center hole in the bottom the planter bucket. Once filled with potting mix this will serve to wick water up from the reservoir container (outside bucket) into the planting container (inside bucket). Fill the planter bucket with moistened potting mix. Plant your seedling vegetable plant in the potting mix leaving at least an inch of space below the top edge of the planter bucket. A single tomato or pepper plant works well in this planter. See Figure 10. As the plant matures some trellising may be necessary.

Continued on the next page...



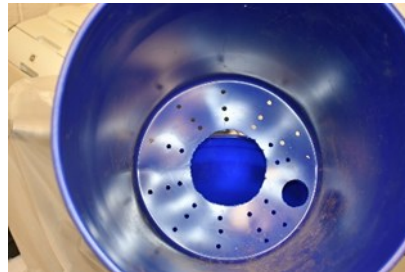
**Figure 1 – Useful Tools for Project**



**Figure 2 – Two 5 Gallon Buckets**



**Figure 3 – Reservoir bucket with overflow hole**



**Figure 4 – Inside view of bucket with holes**



**Figure 5 – PVC pipe for filler tube**



**Figure 6 – Small 4” planter with added 1/4” holes**



**Figure 7 – Inside view of bucket & 4” container**



**Figure 8 – Outside view of planter bucket & filler tube**



**Figure 10 – Project completed and in use**



**Figure 9 – Filler tube screw attachment**

**(Note: Window screen was used to cover top of fill tube and side drainage hole to prevent Mosquito Access)**



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## Mini-gardening – Growing Vegetables in Containers

By: Bob Whitehead, Horticulture Associate

For some people finding the space to grow a vegetable garden is very challenging. For others, they have the space for a reasonably sized garden but they are interested in many different types of vegetables and they can't seem to fit them all in their traditional garden at the same time. Container Gardening provides opportunities to utilize small areas such as decks, porches, patios, entryways, etc. to grow nourishing produce. Combining vegetables, flowers and herbs in containers can also be quite decorative in these areas too. For the traditional vegetable gardener, it provides the opportunity to supplement or free up space in the garden for additional vegetable types. With a little creativity, you can design, plan and implement a container garden that is attractive and functional.

The same planning tasks apply to container gardens as to traditional vegetable gardening. Make a list of the vegetables that you family likes. Decide which ones produce large plants, have a sprawling growth characteristic or have a longer growth period to harvest. These vegetables are best left to the traditional garden if you have one. If not you can still give them a try in containers by selecting smaller varieties and utilizing vertical staking and trellising. Make a drawing of your proposed container garden, determine planting and harvest periods. Don't forget to plan for vegetables succession planting as you harvest the bounty. With dedicated care your container garden can be very successful.

Most any container will do. You are only limited by your own imagination. Examples of containers include old nursery flower pots, window boxes, flower pots, hanging baskets, 5 gallon buckets, bushel baskets, storage totes, half whiskey barrels or plastic drums. Almost any container that you have lying around might be utilized for growing vegetables.

Other than the container, there are three essential requirements for a successful container garden 1) 6-8 hours of sunlight per day during the growing season, 2) Appropriate growing medium with nutrients and 3) adequate moisture to support plant growth. For those who live on property with limited sunlight, containers can be placed in strategic locations to capture the necessary sunlight. Inexperienced vegetable gardeners will have the most success with soilless potting mixes, many of which contain fertilizer suitable for most vegetables. As you gain experience, you may want to mix your own container growing media. Regular garden soil is generally too dense, may contain weed seed, and may not drain well. Light weight potting mixes will contain peat moss perlite, vermiculite, compost, ground bark and fertilizer.

A dedicated watering program is essential for successful container gardening. Plants grown in containers will dry quickly with warm temperatures and steady winds. With our busy lives, this may be the most difficult aspect to control. Some marketable containers are designed to be self watering or you can build a self-watering container of your own. Serving fresh home-grown vegetables to your family will provide great satisfaction and healthful rewards.

For a few ideas and examples, see the following links:

[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/426/426-336/SPES-255.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-336/SPES-255.pdf)

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/growing-vegetables-containers>

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-create-a-container-garden-for-edibles-in-the-north-carolina-piedmont>



Find us on Facebook for the **Virginia Cooperative Extension Office - Goochland** and **Goochland 4-H** here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Cooperative-Extension-Goochland-County/197382547017139> &

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Goochland-4-H/192197339215>





# Virginia Cooperative Extension

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## Rain Barrel Workshop



Learn the importance of using a rain barrel to conserve and collect water for use in your garden! During this workshop, participants will work together to assemble one or more rain barrels. Each participant will receive one rain barrel per \$50 registration fee. Please be prepared to transport your 44" tall, x 24" wide completed rain barrel to your home.

### Where:

Central High Cultural & Educational Complex  
2947 Dogtown Rd, Goochland, VA 23063

### When:

**Thursday  
June 16, 2022  
6:00 PM — 8:00 PM**

**Participant Limit: 15**

Please Pre-register by Friday June 10th

Contact Bob Whitehead: [whitehd5@vt.edu](mailto:whitehd5@vt.edu)

or call (804)556-5841

OR REGISTER using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/Rainbarrel-2022>



Photo Credit North Carolina Cooperative Extension

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Bob Whitehead at the Goochland Extension Office at (804-556-5868/TDD\*) during business hours of 8 a.m. and 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](mailto:nks49@vt.edu); mensaje de texto - 301-633-0652.