

PAWPAW

Asimina triloba

Pawpaw has the largest edible fruit of any North American tree. The fruit tastes like a creamy mixture of banana and pineapple and is shaped like bananas or mangos.



Description: Common pawpaw is a small tree to 25 ft. tall with big drooping, tropical-looking leaves. The leaves are up to a 1 ft long and turn brown and gold in autumn. The maroon flowers, about 1-2 inches across, appear before the leaves in spring, growing right out of the smooth, gray bark of the previous season's growth. The greenish fruits are shaped like bananas or

mangos. They are 3-6 in long and hang in clusters with 2 to 9 pawpaws per cluster.

Natural Habitat: Forest or natural area in rich, moist woods, along streams and river bottoms; often in dense thickets.

Size: up to 30 feet

Light: Partial sun or filtered shade

Planting and Care: Prefers rich, well drained and slightly acid soil. The pawpaw needs regular watering during the growing season and an application of an organic or granular fertilizer high in potassium twice a year.

Ornamental Value: Beautiful, perfect maroon colored blooms showing in late spring to early summer.

Landscape Usage: With its drooping, tropical looking leaves and shade loving temper, pawpaw is a good choice for a small specimen tree in a shady landscape.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: Pawpaw may be making a comeback as a commercial fruit. Research is taking place to produce fruit for the market. Pawpaws produce a natural insecticide so they do not require the huge amounts of toxic chemicals use to produce such as apples. Pawpaws also seem highly resistant to disease. In addition to the fruit the Cherokee used the inner bark for making rope and twine.

Wildlife Benefits: Pawpaw fruits are a favorite food of opossums, raccoons, foxes, mice, and people.

