



Pawpaw



Pawpaw hanging on the tree.

Latin Name: *Asimina triloba*

Recommended Cultivars: Overleese, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania Golden, Rappahannock, Allegheny, Mango, etc

Native region: Eastern North America

Growing Zones: 5-8

Mature Size: 14-20 ft'

Pruning Tree Form: Central Leader

Pollination Requirements: At least two different cultivars or seedlings required for cross-pollination; three or more is better

Light Requirements: Full sun (best) to partial shade

Harvest Window: Late August-September

Maintenance Level: Easy

Common Pest and Disease Issues: Largely pest and disease free

Tree Care and Harvest



WATERING: In the first year after planting, water twice a week for the first month and then once a week until dormant. Aim for at least 5 gallons of water per week, per tree.



WINTER: Protect a young pawpaw through its first winters by winterizing with extra leaf mulch! Little pruning is required, but can be helpful to manage the height.



SUMMER: It is recommended to put up a screen to keep a young pawpaw in partial sun for its first years. Apply high-potassium organic fertilizers like fish/seaweed twice a year.



FALL: Harvest in late August to September. Late fall compost application.

HARVEST: Ripe pawpaw fruits are ready when they easily come off the stem and are soft to the touch. They are often harvested off the ground after they fall, but they can also be picked before they are fully ripe and placed in a brown paper bag to ripen. The skin color of ripe fruit on the tree ranges from green to yellow, and brown spots are also a good sign of ripeness. Fully ripe pawpaws last only a few days at room temperature, but can be kept for a week or so in the refrigerator.



PROPAGATION: Pawpaws may be propagated from seed and come fairly true to type. Seeds must be kept moist and cold stratified. Grafting in late Spring is required for cultivars.