

Asimina triloba

Pawpaw

Height: 15'-30'

Spread: 15'-30'

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Soil Moisture: Wet to mesic

Soil Types: Sand, Loam, Clay Any fertile soil with sufficient organic matter to retain moisture

Bloom Time: April to May

Bloom Description: Insignificant purple flowers

Leaf: Large tropical-like leaves retain green color well into fall before turning a bright yellow.

Fruit: Showy edible fruit matures in autumn. In order to produce fruits, the flowers of pawpaw have to be cross-pollinated from genetically distinct plants. Because pollinating insects tend to be scarce during the spring and flies aren't the most reliable pollinators, such cross-pollination doesn't necessarily happen. To stimulate the development of more fruits, it is possible to cross-pollinate by hand the flowers that are within one's reach.

Uses: Fruits are frequently eaten raw or used in ice creams or pies. This understory tree can be used in a rain garden. Grow in a shrub border or edge of woods. Effective in damp areas along ponds or streams.

Wildlife: Fruit eaten by raccoon, opossums, fox, skunk, squirrels and box turtle

Nectar: Flies

Larval Host: Zebra Swallowtail, Pawpaw sphinx

Pollinators: Flies

Deer Resistant: High

Comments: Often spreads by root suckers to form colonies or thickets or the "pawpaw patch" if you feel like singing or whistling.

