

# Pawpaws

## Planting Information



- 12-15' tall
- Native to North America
- Varieties: Pennsylvania Golden, NC-1, Shenandoah
- Will take 3-5 years for fruit production
- Poor fruit production in the shade, requires full sunlight for maximum production
- Prefer well drained soil, but can perform better in wetter soil than other fruit trees
- Pawpaws were consumed and cultivated by many Native American societies and loved by both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson!

## Common Pests and Diseases

Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most commonly found in St. Louis.

**Peduncle borer:** Small moths, larvae eat the flowers and fruit

*Treatment:* Bt inclusion in holistic spray, Bt sprays

## Seed St. Louis Classes & Resources

**Holistic Sprays-** Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects

**Orchard Classes-** Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Schedules available on our website and Facebook page

**Companion plant recommendations-** handout available on website

## How to Eat

Pawpaws have a flavor described as a combination of mango, banana, and pineapple and have a creamy, custard like texture.

To enjoy fresh, cut in half, remove the seeds, and eat with a spoon! Pawpaws are also great in baking or pop one in the freezer for an ice cream-esque treat.

## Timeline of Care

### Spring Care

- Application of four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (*Late February to Mid-May*)
- Remove any tree wraps placed in winter (*Early April*)

### Fall Care

- Harvest when fruits are ready! Pawpaws will frequently fall off the tree when ripe. Be on the lookout for the first fruit fall! (*August through October*)
- Consider placing a soft layer of mulch, like straw or pine needles under the tree to cushion falling fruit (*August through October*)
- Remove or shred all fallen leaves to prevent diseases from spreading (*Mid-October to November*)
- Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed of (*November*)
- Install tree wraps to protect trees from rabbits and voles (*Late November*)
- Apply a new layer of mulch to the base of the tree (*November*)

### Ongoing Care

- During the first full growing season, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain. After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- Weed the mulch ring
- Plant any desired companion plants to benefit the orchard ecosystem (*Spring or Fall*)