

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 Recorded Classes & Resources

Holistic Sprays- Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects

Orchard Class Recordings - Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Available on our YouTube channel.

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*)