

August Produce Spotlight: Paw Paws



Photo by Wendell Smith_CC BY 2.0

Planting window

Harvest window



Recommended Paw Paw Varieties for North Carolina

University of Kentucky's Recommendations:

'Convis', 'Davis', 'Overleese', 'Sunflower' and 'Wells'

Many nurseries that sell 'native plants' also offer pawpaws, but these were not selected for their fruit production so you do not know what the fruit quality will be.

General Care

Light: Plant in location with between 6-10 hours of sunlight each day.

Soil: These trees love evenly moist, fertile soil typically near a stream or low area, but not IN water. They need to be mulched.

Spacing: Space plants 8' apart in open field or cleared area.



Top Growing Tips

1. Pawpaws can get 15-20ft tall, so pruning them to keep them low enough to reach the fruit is key.
2. The trees will send out suckers, so pull them early instead of mowing them.
3. Make sure to provide supplemental water during periods of drought.
4. This is the host plant for the zebra swallowtail butterfly. The caterpillars will eat the leaves, so don't be surprised if you see chewing damage.



Common Diseases & Pests

Pests: *Talponia plummeriana*, the Pawpaw peduncle borer; *Eurytides marcellus*, the zebra swallowtail butterfly*

Diseases: *Mycocentrospora asiminae*, *Rhopaloconidium asiminae*, and *Phyllosticta asiminae* (primarily leaf spot diseases that the tree will outgrow)

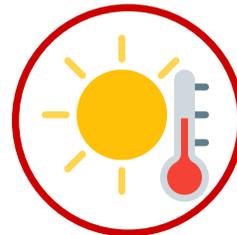
Management

Plant healthy, strong plants; keep evenly moist, especially during droughts and when growing in the sun; wildlife love the fruits so make sure to check trees daily during ripening season; keep trees pruned so you can easily move around them.



120-160 DAYS TO HARVEST

Warm or Cool Season Crop?



Warm



Cool

Does this plant grow well in a container?



Yes!



Fair



Not Well

August Pollinator Pairings: Fruit Fly



Photo by Alan Wolf- CC BY-NC 2.0

Active Season

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



What do I look like?

Flies are in the order Diptera, meaning two wings. After bees, the flower flies (syrphid) and blow flies are the most prolific pollinators! There are more than 110,000 described fly species in the world, and more than 900 species of flower flies in the U.S.



Where do I live?

Different species prefer different habitat types. There is a fly for every ecosystem in North America!

The adult flies do not last more than 2-4 weeks, but there can be up to seven generations a year of some species.

What are my favorite flowers?

Flowers that are small, and white or yellow are my favorite during the summer. Goldenrods, small daisies and other small flowers in the Asteraceae are where you'll find me.

How well does this pollinator pollinate other fruit and vegetable crops?



Well



Fair



How can you help me?

You can plant more flowering plants, and different types of plants that flower throughout the year. Let some areas of your property become wild and leave a layer of leaves. Allow for rotting materials in peripheral areas of your yard and adopt composting. Don't spray insecticides when insects are active and make sure they do not have residual effects. The larvae of many species are predatory to aphids.



How do I pair with the produce in the spotlight?

Flies are attracted to the musky, dark flowers of pawpaw, by a not pleasant, but not rotten smell. The male and female parts of the flower are conducive to the fly moving pollen around the flower.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FLIES HERE!

