

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)

(1 yr 6-20") A shrub to small tree growing up to 25 feet tall that tolerates shade.

Pawpaw produces a fruit that is readily eaten by wildlife and also humans. With leaves and branches that deer avoid, and fruit that is loved by all, the pawpaw is a fascinating native tree. They are not self-pollinating, so plant at least two trees for fruit production.

Where to plant: Part Shade/Dappled Sun
| Well-drained, slightly acidic soil (pH 5.5–7.0)

How to plant:

Plant seedlings in early spring (before bud break) or in fall (mid-September to early November) to minimize heat and water stress. Ensure proper watering and protection from harsh conditions in the first few years.

1. Dig a hole twice as wide and as deep as the root system.
2. Amend dug up soil with organic matter (compost) to improve drainage and fertility. (Use a balanced fertilizer only sparingly the first few years.)
3. Place seedling in the hole, ensuring its root flare or collar (where the trunk meets the roots) is at ground level.
4. Backfill hole with amended soil, gently firming it around the roots, then water thoroughly.
5. Mulching is beneficial for retaining moisture and reducing weeds, so long as no mulch touches the trunk or stem.
6. Provide shade, especially in the first few years, using a screen or other method.
7. Rule of thumb for watering: For the first few weeks to a month or so, if there's been no rain for 3 days, water thoroughly by hand, gradually extending watering to once a week.

For best success, do this throughout the hot summer. By the time cooler temps arrive in fall, the root system should be established well enough to get sufficient water from the ground.

