

Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

The Custard-Apple Family (Annonaceae)

Basic Description: Short, single or multi-trunked tree with large alternate, deciduous leaves and gray, smooth, "wart-like" bark.

Interesting Facts: Plant used by Native Americans as a diuretic, lice treatment and as a narcotic. Alkaloids found in its leaves and bark are being researched for cancer treatment. Host to Zebra Swallowtail butterfly and Pawpaw Sphinx moth.

Flower: 1 - 1.5" purplish-brown, bell shaped, with 6 petals; appearing with or slightly before the leaves.

Fruit: Short, fat banana-shaped pod with a banana-like flavor and creamy texture, 2.5 - 4" long, green turning to brown when ripe in the fall. Eaten raw or often used for making jelly.

Wildlife Value: Fruit is food for small mammals, birds, and insects in the fall and attracts multiple insects and butterflies. Small size limits cover benefit for most animals.

Habitat: Ravines, depressions, flood plains, bottomlands.

LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



POLLINATOR

INSECTS



WILDLIFE VALUE

MEDIUM

