

# 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

