



Pawpaw Planting Guide



Pawpaws are a native North American fruit closely related to the tropical Cherimoya and Annona, but are frost hardy to minus 20°F. Fruit resembles a mango with a banana/mango flavor and the texture of custard. They require-pollination. Planting two or three in the same hole will provide good pollination and a long harvest. They grow best in full sun with good drainage. Shading young trees their first year will help them get established. They prefer regular deep watering. Fertilize with Citrus food in the spring and acidify soil in summer.

Unlike other deciduous fruit they should be planted while in leaf, fall or spring. They are available as grafted varieties or seedlings. Grafted Pawpaws generally begin bearing 3-5 years after planting, seedlings may take even longer. Harvest season is September through October. Harvest when the fruit turns from green to yellow-green. Pawpaws rarely have pest or disease problems, even deer leave them alone.

Planting Instructions:

Pawpaws have a sensitive root system and must be handled with care. Before removing tree from pot prepare a planting hole as per Yamagami's *Fruit Tree Planting Guide*. Proceed with the following changes:

- 1) Lay pot on its side on a sheet of newspaper (in the center). Cut around drainage holes on lower edge to remove bottom of pot. Set pot gently upright on the sheet of newspaper.
- 2) Carefully make 2 cuts down opposite sides of pot, then tie or tape it back together leaving it on the sheet of newspaper. This makes it easier to remove pot once it is in the hole.
- 3) Gently lift the pot by the sheet of newspaper and place in the already prepared hole. For planting 2 or 3 trees together, the hole should be 18" in diameter.
- 4) Begin to fill in the hole with the soil mix outlined in the *Fruit Tree Planting Guide*. Leave newspaper at bottom, it will break down. Untie the pot and slide it up and off as you fill in soil mix, being careful not to disturb roots.

Continue following the Fruit Tree Planting Guide instructions, paying close attention to the watering ring construction and watering info.

Pawpaw Varieties (Grafted)

Prolific

Begins bearing at early age. Ripens early. Productive and reliable

Rebecca's Gold

Large fruited, productive variety. Ripens late.

Wells

Very large fruited variety. Ripens mid-season.