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All About Pawpaws

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What is a Pawpaw?

- Pawpaw is a native tree fruit that is found in the forest understory in Kentucky.
- The fruit's flavor is like a tropical blend of mango and banana.
- Trees can be grown in full sun in orchards.
- This is a new unique crop for Kentucky farmers.
- George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Boone, and Lewis and Clark ate pawpaws.

Growing Pawpaws

- Small tree, 15-20 feet tall.
- Plant trees 8-10 feet apart.
- Seedlings take 7-8 years to produce fruit; grafted trees produce fruit in 3-4 years.
- Few pests and/or diseases; can be grown organically.
- Pollinated by flies and beetles.
- Trees fruit late August to early October.
- Recommended varieties include: KSU-Atwood®, KSU-Benson®, NC-1, Overleese, Sunflower, Shenandoah, Wabash, Potomac, Susquehanna.

What Can You Do with Pawpaws?

- Eat the fruit fresh from the tree.
- The green skin and row of large seeds are inedible; soft yellow-orange flesh is the part you eat.
- Fruit is nutritious and high in antioxidants.
- Baking recipes; can be used as a substitute for banana.
- Process into ice cream or jam.



Questions: kysu.edu/pawpaw
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