

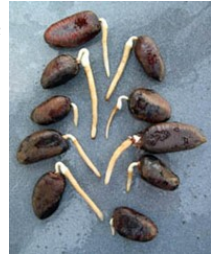
Growing Pawpaws from Seed (the seeds)

You can grow pawpaws from seed, but it can be challenging.



Red Fern Farm

1. Remove seeds from fruit promptly, or viability will be reduced. Wash seed thoroughly with water to remove any remnants of fruit pulp.
2. Pawpaws seeds must be kept moist (but not wet) in order to germinate. To keep seeds for germinating next spring, place them in a Ziploc bag with some moist (NOT wet) medium such as peat or sawdust, then store them in refrigeration until spring.
3. If you will have ANY apples or pears in your refrigerator, you should double or even triple bag the seeds.
4. In spring, place seeds in pots with a light, porous medium such as a mixture of peat and vermiculite or perlite. DO NOT use “potting soil” as that is too dense.
5. Provide a balanced fertilizer. Compost works well.
6. Keep pots/seeds moist at all times, and in a very warm location. Germinating seeds should be kept at least 75° - 85° F. Warmer temperatures, up to 95°, speed the process.
7. Once seedlings emerge, keep pots in a SHADY location. Direct sun can kill young paw-paw seedlings. Keep seedlings well-watered and shaded until late summer/early fall, then set them out in their final location.



Growing Pawpaws from Seed (the trees)



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Plant pawpaws in a shady location, or use an 18 inch tall tree shelter. If you plant in a shady location without a tree shelter, provide some kind of protection from rabbits. You can get good rabbit protection for pawpaws planted in shady locations from Forestry Suppliers, Inc. www.forestry-suppliers.com. On their website they are called “rigid seedling protectors”. You want the size 4” x 18”. You can use a 3/8 inch fiberglass “electric fence stake”, available at any farm supply store, to stake the rabbit protection shelter.

Keep the area around the seedlings completely free of weeds (especially grasses!) until tree is established. Mulch well, using coarse wood chips. With good planting and care, seedling pawpaws can begin bearing fruit in 5-6 years, but you MUST have at least two in proximity for cross pollination.

Pawpaws should be mulched with a 3 foot diameter circle and at least 3 to 4 inch thick. Keep pawpaws well mulched for the first 3-4 years or until the tree is at least 5 feet tall. Coarse wood chips make the best mulch.

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