

🔥 Strong Fly Attractants (Odorous, but not harmful or carnivorous)

Plant	Native?	Bloom Time	Odour	Benefit
Skunk Cabbage (<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>)	✓	Mar–Apr	Skunky	Among the earliest bloomers; heats itself to release scent and attract flies. Good in moist areas near pawpaws.
Red Trillium (<i>Trillium erectum</i>)	✓	Apr–May	“Wet dog” smell	Specifically attracts carrion flies. Reliable woodland bloomer.
Jack-in-the-Pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>)	✓	Apr–May	Musty	Temporarily traps flies to ensure pollination, then releases. Shade tolerant.
Crown Imperial (<i>Fritillaria imperialis</i>)	✗	Apr–May	Musky	Showy tall flower with a skunky scent. Non-native, but zone 5 hardy.
Mayapple (<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>)	✓	May	Earthy	Dense leaf canopy shelters flies and keeps soil cool/moist. Flowers underneath leaves.

🌸 Mild/Neutral Odour Wildflowers (Still help bring early insects)

Plant	Native?	Bloom Time	Benefit
Wild Ginger (<i>Asarum canadense</i>)	✓	Late Apr – May	Cup-shaped ground flowers mimic decaying organic matter. Great groundcover under pawpaws.
Bloodroot (<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>)	✓	Apr	Bright white flowers attract generalist early flies.
Dutchman's Breeches (<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>)	✓	Mid-Apr – early May	Fern-like foliage and unique shape. Draws early hoverflies.
Blue Cohosh (<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>)	✓	Apr–May	Pale yellow flowers with musty scent. Tolerates deep shade.
Golden Alexanders (<i>Zizia aurea</i>)	✓	May–Jun	Umbel flowers attract tiny flies and sap beetles. Longer bloom.

7 Harvesting and Storage 8 Propagation Notes

- **Ripening** — Late Aug-Oct; fruit soft, fragrant, and detaches easily.
- **Shelf Life** — 3–4 days room temp; 7–10 days at 1 °C. Purée freezes 12 + months.

- **Seed** — Stratify 90 days at 4 °C; sow 2 cm deep. Germination 70–90 %.
- **Grafting** — Whip-and-tongue onto 1-year seedlings in May for named cultivars.

Quick Potting Timeline

Current Pot	Immediate Action	12-Month Goal
250 mL or 500 mL	Up-pot to 2 L tall	Shift to 7 L tall or plant out

9 Summary

Suivez le programme simple de culture en pot, gardez les racines fraîches et humides et plantez au moins deux paumelles génétiquement distinctes pour la pollinisation croisée.

Avec des soins patients, votre plant de pépinière vous récompensera avec une végétation luxuriante et une chair sucrée à la crème fruitée en 5 à 7 ans - apportant une touche des tropiques à votre jardin de l'Ontario.

Lyis: *Asimina triloba* Pawpaw

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1 Introduction to *Asimina triloba* (Pawpaw)

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9 Summary

six-petalled flowers open before leaf-out in late April–May (Ontario). Oblong green fruit ripens September–October, softening to reveal custard-like, banana-mango-flavoured flesh.

1.2 Historical and Cultural Context

Précieuse pour les nations autochtones et notée par les premiers explorateurs, la papaye était un produit de base des frontières.

1.3 Edible, Medicinal, and Ecological Value

Edible: Flesh contains ≈7 % protein, vitamins C and B₆, potassium, and carotenoids. Eat fresh or freeze purée for smoothies, custards, or quick breads.

Medicinal/Utility: Bark and twigs contain natural insecticidal acetogenins; leaves host zebra swallowtail butterfly larvae, enhancing local biodiversity.

1.1 Description of the Plant

Asimina triloba, North America's largest native tree fruit, is a pyramidal understory tree 4–7 m tall. Drooping, tropical-looking leaves (up to 30 cm) turn golden in autumn, while maroon

1.4 Your Seedling: What to Do on Arrival

You are receiving a **Pawpaw seedling** in a **250 mL or 500 mL deep pot**. Handle delicately—the tap-root must remain undisturbed.

1. Unpack & Hydrate

- Stand pot upright immediately; water until drainage appears.

2. Up-Pot Within 7 Days

- Slide root plug intact into a **2 L tall tree pot** (≈7 cm wide × 25 cm deep).
- Medium: 60 % aged pine bark fines + 40 % peat/coir (pH 5.5-6.5).
- Water-in with 5 mL diluted fish emulsion (5-1-1).

3. Light

- Maintain **30-50 % shade** first summer; avoid hot black pots in direct sun.

4. Watering

- Keep medium evenly moist (1-2 L per watering, 2-3× weekly in heat). Do not allow to dry out.

5. Fertiliser

- Mid-summer: top-dress 100 mL finished compost. No high-N synthetics.

6. Next Spring (Year 3)

- Shift to a **7 L tall pot** or plant in ground once stem ≥ 8 mm diameter and ≥ 40 cm tall.

2 Seedling Pot-Up Strategy (Years 1-3)

1. **Year 0-1: Germination Tube (0.7 L)** — 40-50 % shade; keep 22-25 °C.
2. **Year 2: 2 L Tall Pot** — Light fish-emulsion feed; partial shade.
3. **Year 3: 7 L Tall Pot or Ground** — Harden to full sun; install deer guard.

3 Planting Outdoors (Year 3 or 4)

1. **Site** — Full sun for fruiting; moist, well-drained loam, pH 5.5-7.0.
2. **Spacing** — 4-5 m between trees in rows 5-6 m apart.
3. **Hole Prep** — 50 cm × 40 cm; mix back-fill with 5 L compost + 250 mL rock phosphate.
4. **Planting** — Set root flare at soil level; water 10 L. Provide 50 % shade screen first summer.
5. **Pollination** — Pawpaws are *self-incompatible*; plant at least two unrelated trees within 15 m. Hand-pollinate if yields are low.
6. **Mulch** — 8 cm wood chips in 1 m ring, keep 10 cm clear of trunk.

4 Winterizing Potted Pawpaws

Pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*) are hardy to Zone 5 and can survive outdoor winters when planted in the ground. However, young trees grown in pots are much more vulnerable to cold damage due to exposed roots and limited insulation.

Why Winterize?

Pawpaw roots are sensitive to freezing, especially in small containers. Protecting potted trees through winter is essential for survival and healthy spring regrowth.

Overwintering Options

- **Fridge, Unheated Garage or Shed:** Move pots to an unheated, sheltered space (e.g., garage, shed, root cellar) where temperatures stay between -5 °C and 5 °C. Avoid spaces that get too warm or too dry.
- **Bury the Pot:** Sink the entire pot into the ground in a protected area (e.g., next to a building or under mulch). Cover the soil surface with straw or leaves to insulate against deep freezes.
- **Insulate Above Ground:** Wrap the pot with layers of insulating material such as bubble wrap, foam, or straw bales. Group several pots together for shared warmth and wind protection.
- **Keep Dormant:** Pawpaws lose their leaves and go dormant in late autumn. During dormancy, they require no light and only minimal watering—just enough to keep the soil from drying out completely.
- **Avoid Basement Heat:** Do not overwinter in a heated basement or living space. Warm indoor temperatures can confuse the plant's dormancy cycle and reduce vigor.

6 Pollination

 Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) Pollination-Success Matrix

(seed-grown, genetically distinct trees)

# of Trees Within 15 m	Unique Cross-Pairs[†]</sup>	If You Do Nothing (natural fly activity only)	Add Fly Attractants (banana peel / wild ginger patch)	Hand-Pollinate 1-2× during bloom
1	—	0 % (self-incompatible)	0 %	0 %
2	1	10 – 40 %	30 – 60 %	80 – 100 %
3	3	30 – 60 %	50 – 80 %	90 – 100 %
4-5	6-10	50 – 80 %	70 – 95 %	95 – 100 %
6 +	15 +	70 – 95 %	90 – 100 %	~100 %

Watering During Dormancy

Check soil every few weeks. If the top 2-3 cm is bone dry, give a small amount of water. Do not allow the pot to become soggy or freeze while wet.

When to Bring Out

Move potted pawpaws back outdoors in early spring, once the risk of deep frost has passed (typically mid-April to early May in Grey-Bruce). Resume regular watering as buds swell.

5 Ongoing Care

1. **Watering** — 15 L week⁻¹ during dry spells first two years.
2. **Fertilisation** — From year 3, apply 100 g balanced organic fertiliser per trunk-cm each March.
3. **Pruning** — Minimal; remove crossing branches in late winter.
4. **Shade Transition** — Reduce shade gradually; full sun by year 3 for best fruit.
5. **Protection** — Use 1.5 m tree guards against deer browse.