



**North American Pawpaw**  
*Asimina triloba*

The North American Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is a small to medium tree up to 30 to 40 feet in favorable locations and forms loose colonies in the wild. Leaves are 6 to 15 inches long and one-half as wide with an entire margin. The petiole is 1/3 inch long. The bark is dark brown with grayish areas when young, becoming rough and slightly scaly with maturity. The flowers have been described as lurid purple; 1 to 2 inches across; appearing in mid-May in zone 5; borne singly; there are six petals. Flowers before or as leaves are developing.



**Breaking leaf buds:**

A leaf bud is considered "breaking" once a green leaf tip is visible at the end of the bud, but before the first leaf from the bud has unfolded to expose the leaf stalk at the base.



**Increasing leaf size:**

The majority of leaves on the plant have not yet reached their full size. Do not include new leaves that continue to emerge at ends of elongated stems throughout the growing season.



**Leaves:**

One or more unfolded leaves visible; do not include dried or dead leaves.



**Colored leaves:** Do not include fully dried or dead leaves that remain on the plant.

Phenophase not pictured: **Falling leaves**

Photo credits: Dr. Ron Powell, President, NAPGA



North American Pawpaw  
*Asimina triloba*



**Flowers or flower buds:** unopened flower buds (left). Opened flowers Right & below) Once you see open flowers, continue to report flowers or flower buds.



**Open flowers:** Flowers are open when the reproductive parts (male anthers or female stigmas) are visible. Do not include wilted or dried flowers.



**Fruits:** Tiny finger-like projections that will grow into the mature fruit.



**Recent fruit drop:** Mature hard or soft fruits have dropped or been removed from the plant since last visit. Do not include fruits that have dropped before ripening.



**Ripe fruits:** When the fruit has begun to soften, has a floral/ fruity aroma, or fallen off the tree and is soft. Do not use color as an indicator to determine if the fruit is ripe.



Photo credits: Dr. Ron Powell, President, NAPGA