



Flowers of Pawpaw (April); flowering and fruiting plants usually are found on the Hematite and Honker Lake Trails.

PAWPAW

Asimina triloba (L.) Dunal

The Pawpaw is a frequently-encountered low shrub or small tree. Almost all mesic wooded areas harbor a few plants but expect to find best growth in ravines, along streams, and in creek and river bottom-lands. Large purple flowers appear with the leaves in April and May. The sweet edible fruits are sought by wild animals and humans in autumn. The large oblong leaves have an unpleasant odor when crushed. This is our only representative of a very large and tropical family which is of considerable economic importance for its edible fruits. The genus name is from *Asiminier*, the name French colonists gave to the species, perhaps from the Native American *assimin*. Pawpaw is from Papaw, the fruit of the tropical American papaya (*Annonaceae*, the Custard-Apple Family).

Fruits of Pawpaw (September).

