



ID #: 515

Owner: USFW—Little River National Wildlife Refuge

Circumference: 8 inches

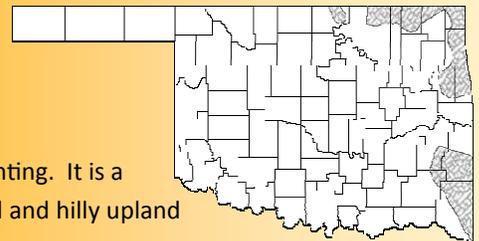
Height: 18 feet

Average Crown Spread: 15.5 feet

Total Points: 29.9



PAWPAW (*ASIMINA TRILOBA*)



This handsome shrub with odd flowers and fruits has been used in ornamental planting. It is a thicket forming (clonal) understory tree found in well-drained, deep, fertile bottomland and hilly upland habitat. The annual wild fruit crop production usually is poor and consumed by wildlife.

Shrub or small tree 10—30 feet high and 6 inches in diameter, with few long spreading branches, forming colonies from root sprouts. **Twigs** long, slender, light brown, rusty hairy; pith often with plates or chambers. **Buds** of tiny leaves (naked) covered with rusty brown hairs.

Leaves spreading in 2 rows, large, reverse, ovate, large, 7—10 inches long, 3—5 inches wide, broadest beyond middle, short-pointed, tapering to base and short leafstalk, edges not toothed, rusty hairy when young, green above, paler beneath, turning yellow in autumn; bruised foliage with unpleasant odor.

Flowers nodding singly on slender stalks along twigs in early spring, 1 1/2 inches across the 3 spreading triangular green to brown or purple outer petals, hairy with prominent veins, produce an odd odor similar to that of rotting meat to attract blowflies and carrion beetles for pollination.

Fruits (berries) suggesting small bananas, in shape and odor, cylindrical, slightly curved, 3—5 inches long, 1—1 1/2 in diameter, from greenish yellow to dark brown at maturity in autumn; pulp yellowish, soft, edible with flavor of custard. Seeds several, shiny brown, rounded and flattened. It is the largest edible fruit indigenous to the US.

Bark dark brown with thin light yellow sapwood, ring porous, coarse textured lightweight, soft. Sometimes used for fenceposts.