



Giving pause with the paws

Posted by [Todd Parlo](#)

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[Todd Parlo](#)

[Giving pause with the paws](#)

January 07, 2014 05:40PM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 301

Paw paws for some reason are becoming one of those new upstarts in permaculture planting, and we get a lot of questions on them some years. Unfortunately we are in the zone 3ish area of the country which makes things a little dicey for things like paw paws, despite their newfound popularity. I caution folks off them here but they still order them from somewhere or other.

I am in the process of replanting an big orchard for a local family, which includes a lot of poorly selected options from a local nursery (not ours). Paw paws were among them. Score this past year: mother nature 3, paw paws 0. That is, they all died, outright, roots to tips. Interestingly, they bit it in a year that was frankly pretty mild (their house likely didn't hit beyond teens below zero) which means they would have died zones warmer in a typical year.

Good to have fun and experiment, but be warned.

[Walden Heights Nursery & Orchard](#)

Zone 3 in Vermont

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[Dan Lefever](#)

[Re: Giving pause with the paws](#)

February 23, 2014 04:58PM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 15

If you want to push the northern limit on paw paws; then a least use selections from Corwin Davis(deceased) of Michigan: the pawpaw guru of Nafex for many years. If I recall correctly, from 35 years ago, two of his named selections were Sunflower and Taylor2. Michael McConkey of Edible Landscaping Nursery would have these and possibly others that may be as hardy. The person currently the most in the know on paw paws is Neal Petersen of the Wash DC area. I think paw paw native range goes up into NW NY state, John Campbell of Northern Nut Growers Assoc., is from that area, and has paw paws collected from that area. Bill McKently's Nursery of Pottsdam, NY, is always pushing hardiness frontier for fruits and nuts, so check with him.

In my experience with oriental persimmons at the northern edge of hardiness in zone 6, It was getting the grafts through the first few years and then they were ok, there are 50 year old trees growing in this area , but now we are almost zone7 in SEastern PA, so they should be much easier to establish. Try wrapping the trees with breathable protection/ insulation to cut wind dessication and rapid temperature fluctuations. In my area a commercial fig grower uses shade cloth to accomplish this on mature fig trees/ bushes.

Dan Lefever

SE PA

zone 6b - 7b

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[Fabio Chizzola](#)

[Re: Giving pause with the paws](#)

March 09, 2014 03:37AM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 35

I have six paw paws coming this spring, I'm excited to try them out. I went to see Lee Reich's garden, he has a dozen of them, very healthy and vigorous. He says there is no need of pruning or spraying of any type. I tasted the fruit, and it's an exciting exotic flavor. I'm happy to try them out.

I'll let you know what happens in a few years.

[Westwind Orchard](#)

Zone 5b in New York

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[Molly DellaRoman](#)

[Re: Giving pause with the paws](#)

January 15, 2021 08:09PM

Registered: 5 years ago

Posts: 38

Trying to connect with PawPaw growers in Maine...anybody out there?

Thanks!

5 Star Nursery and Orchard
Zone 5, Brooklin, ME

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[Prairie Sundance](#)

[Re: Giving pause with the paws](#)

May 28, 2021 02:11PM

Registered: 2 years ago
Posts: 47

Our homestead pawpaw's are Davis seedlings and have withstood-24,-26, and-32 winters here with no dieback. Zone 4b/5a sw Wisconsin. They are on the order of pears in terms of the patience you need, in their ninth year I see they have finally set fruit, (though last year it was only a late late freeze that killed the crop.) Hopefully they are true to their parents good flavor. Uniquely tasty and absolutely disease free no wonder the permies like them.

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[Blake Cothron](#)

[Re: Giving pause with the paws](#)

February 03, 2022 08:11PM

Registered: 1 year ago
Posts: 3

Our nursery specializes in high quality pawpaw trees :

<https://peacefulheritage.com/product-category/fruit-nut-trees/pawpaw-trees/grafted-pawpaw-trees/>

I'm also the author of the book on pawpaw growing:

<https://peacefulheritage.com/shop/pawpaw-trees/ultra-select-seedlings/pawpaws-the-complete-growing-and-marketing-guide/>

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[Charles DeVier](#)

[Re: Giving pause with the paws](#)

November 21, 2023 03:54AM

Registered: 1 year ago
Posts: 7

Paw paws grow good around here. A neighbor must have a 5 acre patch behind my house. I have several small patches starting; should have some fruit next year. All the paw paw blooms were killed this year due to a late freeze on April 24.

Mid-Missouri

Fayette, MO

Zone 6b

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