

OPGA Newsletter



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Seventh grader is presented with the 2003 OPGA Award of Excellence



Carol Alexander and Melani Duffrin

Carol Alexander of Vinton County, Ohio won the OPGA Certificate of Excellence Award for outstanding achievements in pawpaw research and development. Carol also received a check for \$50 from OPGA. The Ohio District 12 Science and Engineering Fair was held at Ohio University, Athens, OH. Her project also received a superior rating during the first round of judging which makes her eligible to compete in the state competition.

Recipes Wanted

Melanie Duffrin of Ohio University, Athens, Ohio is collecting original pawpaw recipes to include in an “exclusively pawpaw” recipe book. Send your favorite pawpaw recipes to Melanie at School of human and Consumer Sciences, Grover Center W324, Athens, OH 45701.

Got pawpaw?

Author: Brandis Thorton, Ohio University Food and Nutrition Student

As a lover of the pawpaw fruit, you’ve probably got pounds of the frozen pulp stored away in your freezer, just waiting to be used in a culinary masterpiece. Pawpaw pulp can be used in a variety of different foods to add an interesting flavor profile. You can try it in cookies, cakes, muffins, breads, and frozen fruity desserts. But we don’t stop there – this recipe can take a plain, boring piece of chicken and jazz it up a little.

** The following recipe calls for thawed pawpaw pulp. In order to get your frozen pulp ready for this recipe, you can thaw it in the refrigerator or in the microwave.

Chicken Paw-B-Que Sandwich

Submitted by John and Barb Dunca-Ella Fun Food Ministries

Ingredients:

8 lbs of chicken breast

1. Boil chicken breast until cooked thoroughly.
2. Put in refrigerator overnight to cool.
3. After cooling chicken overnight, skin the chicken and cut it into one-inch pieces.

Next:

6 cups of your favorite BBQ sauce

2 TBS. to 2 cups Pawpaw pulp (amount depends on desired pawpaw flavor)

½ TBS. of Canadian poultry seasoning

1 TBS. Vinegar

¼ TSP. Garlic Powder

¼ TSP. Onion Powder

¼ TSP. Black Pepper

Dash of Chili Powder

Dash of Cinnamon

4. In a large saucepan, mix remaining ingredients and let simmer until the sauce is heated.
5. Mix chicken in with sauce. Simmer for ½ hour or until chicken is hot.

Pawpaw Pollination

Rory Lewandowski, OSU Extension Agent, Ag/NR Athens County

Most pawpaw growers are enthusiastic about the potential to develop the pawpaw into a viable commercial industry. One obstacle to that vision may be the pollination characteristics of the pawpaw. It is widely acknowledged that pawpaw fruit set in nature can be poor due to poor pollination. There are a couple of reasons for the poor natural pollination of pawpaws. First, the flowers of the pawpaw are *protogynous*. This means that the female receptive organ known as the stigma, is ready to receive the pollen produced by the male organ known as the anther, before the pollen is mature. By the time that pollen is shed, the stigma is no longer receptive. To make matters worse, even if the pollen is released on time, it is often self-incompatible so that pollen from a genetically different tree is needed to insure fertilization. Basically, this means that the pawpaw flower is designed not to be self-pollinated, but must depend upon pollinators. Unfortunately, the natural pollinators of pawpaw, which are various species of flies and beetles, are neither efficient nor very dependable.

So, what's a pawpaw grower to do to try to insure better fruit set? A couple of approaches to improving pollination are being used by the serious grower. The most labor-intensive approach is to hand pollinate. Using a small, flexible brush, a quantity of fresh pollen appearing as yellow dust is transferred from the ripe anthers of a flower of one tree to the ripe stigma within the flower of another tree. The stigma is ripe when the tips of the pistils are green and glossy and the anther ball is still hard and green.

A second approach is based on attracting more insect pollinators to the pawpaw trees. Since the pollinators are flies and beetles, increases in pollination have been achieved by hanging road kill among the pawpaw trees. If this approach catches on, it may spur a wide-scale recycling of the raccoon and opossum carcasses that are so plentiful along the roadsides in the spring.

A third approach is to ensure your patch or orchard has significant sources of fertile pollen. This can be accomplished by grafting additional "select" or "developed" varieties into the patch or orchard. This is especially important in the patch setting, since pawpaws naturally grow clonally. This may leave a pawpaw patch extremely closely related, also limiting pollination. (I called Kirk Pomper re: a grad student study that did genetic fingerprinting in a wild patch to see how closely related they were...hopefully he'll get back to me and we can include some facts and figures).

Invitation

This is your newsletter so this is an open invitation to request your suggestions on future topics relating to pawpaws that are important to you.

O hio
P awpaw
G rowers
A ssociation

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2003 Calendar of Events



Grafting Workshop
& Scion wood exchange
Wilmington College
Wilmington, OH
April 26, 2003
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

5th Ohio Pawpaw Festival
New Albany, Ohio
Saturday, September 13
10 am - 7 pm
Sunday, September 14
10 am - 4 pm

Member Survey

Gender: _____ Male _____ Female Age: _____

State of Residence: _____ County of Residence: _____

Occupation: _____

How did you first hear about the pawpaw fruit?: _____

Do you currently grow pawpaw or have native pawpaw growing on your property: _____ Yes
_____ No If yes, approximately how many trees: _____

I am interested in the following items related to the pawpaw:

Please rank the following: 1=not important, 5=most important

Commercial Uses

Cultivating and selling the pawpaw fruit _____

Growing and selling pawpaw trees for fruit production _____

Growing and selling pawpaw trees for decorative/landscape use _____

Developing the pawpaw agricultural/commercial market _____

Personal Uses

Cultivating fruit for personal or family use _____

Growing pawpaw trees for future personal fruit production _____

Growing trees for personal decorative/landscape use _____

Other Uses

Experimenting with the pawpaw in recipes and cooking _____

Studying and preserving the native Ohio pawpaw fruit _____

Helping to gain status for the pawpaw as official Ohio state fruit _____

Working with pawpaw products for non-food use _____

Other uses (please list): _____

Please send completed survey to: **Chris Chmiel, P. O. Box 503, Albany, OH 45710**
