



Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association
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Pawpaw Ripening Chart©

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Firmness	Very firm - yields slightly to moderate pressure	Firm - yields more easily to moderate pressure	Slightly soft - yields easily to moderate pressure	Moderately soft - yields easily to moderate pressure	Very soft - skin breaks under light pressure
Fragrance (uncut fruit)	Light floral/fruity	More pronounced floral/fruity	Very pronounced floral/fruity	Very pronounced, distinctive floral/fruity	Loss of most fragrance.
Flesh	Opaque, light cream to deep gold*	Opaque, light cream to deep gold*	Opaque, light cream to deep gold*. Pulp sac around seed turning translucent	Opaque, more translucent areas, brown just under the skin	Opaque, many areas of translucence. Mostly brown or pink/tan and becoming mushy.
Flavor	Delicate Undeveloped	More developed with mango, melon, banana flavors	Fully developed with mango/melon/banana flavors	Fully developed with mango/melon/banana flavors	Loss of characteristic fruity flavor; sometimes develops caramel-like flavor
Skin	Green with light blue/green florescence on unhandled fruit. Need peeler to remove.	Green, need peeler to remove or cut in half and scoop flesh.	Green, need peeler to remove or cut in half and scoop flesh.	Green or yellowish with predominant brown areas. Can be removed without peeler.	Discolored--mostly dark brown. Can be easily removed without peeler but pulls flesh with it.
Seeds	Firmly embedded in flesh	Firmly embedded in flesh	Loosening within the pulp sacs	Loose and free from sac, or pulp sac containing seeds have separated from flesh.	Dislodge from cut fruit with no effort.
Usage	Eating out of hand but not much flavor	Eating out of hand, fruit salad	Eating out of hand, fruit salad, ice cream, smoothies, baking, wine making	Eating out of hand, fruit salad, ice cream, smoothies, baking (product will be darker), wine making	Baking (product will be dark), wine making

*depending on variety

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