

Pawpaw Seed Germination

Seeds need at least 2255 hours below 40 degrees F before they will sprout. *Do not freeze seeds* because this will damage them. Keep them refrigerated (in a refrigerator) through at least January or all the way through Spring. Also, you can plant them in the cold season and allow them to continue dormancy in the soil until Spring.

Plant seeds about 1-2 inch (3-5 cm) deep in fertile, moist soil with good drainage. Perlite and vermiculite can be added to the soil to increase moisture retention and reduce compaction especially in areas where the ground is hard. Heavy wind can damage leaves. Seedlings need reduced sunlight until they are more than a foot tall. They can tolerate heavy shade but will produce much more fruit in full sun.

Note: It takes **6 to 8 weeks** for a seed to sprout a root, and **10 to 12 weeks** before the first leaves emerge. Do not remove seed cover/coat from plant leaves. The seedling needs it for food.

Seed Storage

Seeds should be cleaned in a mild Hydrogen solution and refrigerated between 40F (6C) and 33F (0.3C) until they are planted.

For the best germination results:

- Keep seeds refrigerated between 40F (6C) and 33F (0.3C) until they are planted.
- Do not freeze seeds. Do not allow to dry out.

- Pawpaw seeds need *at least 4 months* at refrigerated temperatures in order to germinate.
- Do not allow seeds to dry out.
- Do not allow mold to grow on seeds.

If mold appears repeat the Hydrogen peroxide treatment, and store seeds in a new baggie with moisture-retaining medium such as peat-moss which add a bit of pH. Buffer to the mix to retard mold growth.

From planting time till the trees are 2 inches' tall as these are the same seed we plant. I have planted in the past as late as May 18 and I have seen seed planted this time of year not emerge from the soil in the green house under perfect conditions until July 15 to 20th so a good deal of patience is needed

A mild solution of bleach may be used if seed is very moldy in transport 2 to 5 % at max.

Cliff

Thank you

Kum Hui and Clifford England
England's Orchard and Nursery
2338 HIGHWAY 2004
Mc Kee, KY. 40447-8342
Specializing in alternative crops.
www.nuttrees.net

****Special thanks to Woody walker this document was used with permission but modified to better assist in the growth of pawpaws